

Winter 2012



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

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EDITORIAL

Dear HELAAS members,

The last few months have been very challenging for all of us. The hope and positive spirit that embraces us during the Christmas and New Year season may give us the strength and energy to retain our creativity for the months to come.

Please take a look at our announcements with regard to the workshops call for the upcoming EAAS conference in The Hague in 2014 in addition to the EAAS grants call in March 2013.

In our issue you will find lots of information about new publications, calls for chapter contributions to forthcoming volumes, and the symposium (in Greek) and international conference to be held in Thessaloniki in late Winter and Spring 2013.

Information will also be sent to you via email about our scheduled HELAAS symposium with the title «Χωρο-γραφώντας την Αμερική» to be held in Thessaloniki in the next few months.

The Fulbright Scholar Judith Zinis (Ocean County College, New Jersey, U.S.) will be visiting School of English at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in Spring 2013. Her research will be focusing on the Greek-American filmmaker Gregory Markopoulos. On the occasion of her visit, an event will be organized in late April in 2013. Information is going to be sent to you via email in due course.

On behalf of the board I'd like to thank you for your continuing support.

*Sending you our warmest wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a creative New Year
with health and happiness*

Tatiani Rapatzikou
President of the HELAAS Board



MEMBERS' CORNER

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

PUBLISHED VOLUMES AND ARTICLES

Ioannis Digkas, *Legal Realism in Roscoe Pound's Work* (Sakkoulas Publications, forthcoming).

This is a study on the distinguished American legal scholar and educator Nathan Roscoe Pound. In particular, it examines the formation of Roscoe's realistic legal thought, his reaction to legal formalism and his reaction against legal ritualism that characterized the American legal system at the beginning of the twentieth century.



Yemenedzi-Malathouni, S., T. Rapatzikou, and E. Arapoglou, eds. *Ex-centric Narratives: Identity, Multivocality and Cross-Culturalism* (Academica Press, 2012).

Drawing on North American, Ethnic, and Cultural Studies, the edited volume proposed here addresses the construction of identity in relation to place(s), ethnicities and culture(s), and sets out to explore the ambivalences, fluctuations and modalities which highlight such a process while paving the path for the fashioning of global identities.



Politidou, Sofia. "White Yet Non-White: Miscegenation in Natasha Trethewey's *Native Guard* (2007)." *American Studies Today* 21 (2012): 3-7.

(An online version of the article can also be accessed at http://www.americansc.org.uk/Online/Online_2012/Trethewey.html)

HELAAS MEMBERS' ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

Stamatina Dimakopoulou of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens participated in **The Study of U.S. Institute on Contemporary American Literature**. The program was hosted by the University of Louisville from June 15 to July 28, 2012. The institute brings together a number of scholars with very diverse academic and cultural backgrounds, as well as interests, and offers a series of seminars on recent developments in contemporary literature in the US, involving scholars, writers and poets. For information on the program and how to apply, you may visit <http://exchanges.state.gov/academicexchanges/scholars.html>



Kyriakos Kouveliotis, director of the Atheneum-Liberal Studies of Athens has signed a cooperation agreement with The **International Telematic University UNINETTUNO**. This is a single institution conceived on a grand scale. At UNINETTUNO, professors from an array of universities around the world teach courses in various languages in both real classrooms and virtual ones on the Internet. Distance, space and time are no longer an obstacle.

Here is information about their new MA course in “**Euro-Mediterranean Cultures and Policies**”:

The Master’s course in Euro-Mediterranean Cultures and Policies takes origin from the Open Sky Europe Project, project financed by the European Commission within the context of the “Euromed Regional Communication” program. The project was originally aimed at improving communicative processes within Mediterranean cultures, above all where youth is concerned. The idea of the Euro-Mediterranean area has witnessed a process of growth and evolution. Bearing in mind the institutional modifications that have been effected, the Masters aims to extend and deepen the cultural and political areas offered by the new dimensions that have arisen. The viewpoint adopted regarding the institutions will therefore be closely linked to the History and various mentalities in which they are rooted. The Mediterranean area is one of the most interesting dimensions in the relationship between tradition and innovation. The Masters will therefore be organized around History and Institutions, Constitutional aspects, the nature of Citizenship and Immigration, and the themes of security, justice and liberty. Its aim will be to establish a common starting point for cultural discussion between Europe and the Mediterranean world. The objective of the Masters is to create expertise regarding Policies and universal rights of citizenship in the context of European and Mediterranean cultures. Such skills are linked to the various institutional environments in which they are divided up. The skills which the Masters pinpoints and tries to create are carried out in a cultural debate open to the idea of a Mediterranean public sphere.

For more information about the type of courses offered please visit <http://www.uninettunouniversity.net/Portal/en/informazioni.aspx> or email athenaeum@otenet.gr

NEW HELAAS MEMBER

We would like to welcome **Julijana Nicha** as our new Helaas member. Julijana is a student at Anatolia College of Thessaloniki. Her research interests are in the fields of anthropology, politics, art, and history.

HELAAS' MEMBERS SYMPOSIA/CONFERENCES

SYMPOSIUM

«Αστικά Πεδία σε Μετάβαση» / “Urban Environments in Transition”

25 January 2013

This **one day symposium** (in Greek) will be held in Thessaloniki on January 25th, 2013, at the museum of Byzantine Culture. It will feature the papers of academics, visual artists, photographers, writers and young leaders from Athens and Thessaloniki. All the papers and creative works focus on the research, creative writing and artworks produced during the semester-long project “Urban Environments in Transition: Engaging Young Leaders and Raising Community Awareness through Multimodal Narratives” (Sept. 20th 2012-Feb. 8th 2013).

The University Schools that participate in this project are: **School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki; School of English, University of Athens; Department of Architecture, University of Thessaly.**

Two **exhibitions** are also going to take place:

Thessaloniki – Sotos Art Studio (13 Spandoni Street), **21st-30th January 2013.**
Opening night: Jan. 21st, 2013 at 20.00.

Athens – Athens University History Museum (5 Tholou Street), **28th Jan.-8th Feb. 2013.**

Opening night: Feb. 1st, 2013 at 20.00.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**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.

For more information about the conference please visit

<http://www.enl.auth.gr/theatreconference/index.html>



CALL FOR PAPERS

“America: Justice, Conflict, War”

EAAS Conference, The Hague, Netherlands

April 3 – 6, 2014



Peace Palace, The Hague
Seat of the International Court of Justice

“The business of America is not business. Neither is it war. The business of America is justice and securing the blessing of liberty.” (20th-century U.S.-editor, commentator, and columnist George F. Will)

“And this nation, for all its hopes and all its boasts, will not be fully free until all its citizens are free.” (John F. Kennedy, television address, 11 June 1963)

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:

January 31, 2013: Deadline for submission of workshop and parallel lecture proposals to include a one-page abstract and a half-page c.v. of potential workshop chairs and parallel lecturers. Workshop chairs from the 2012 Izmir conference cannot be workshop chairs in The Hague.

Please do not submit proposals for individual workshop papers at this time. Such proposals may be sent to the selected workshop chairs who will be announced in May 2013.

September 1, 2013: Workshop paper proposals (with 150–200 word abstract) to be sent to Workshop Chairs by those proposing individual papers.

September 15, 2013: Deadline for workshop chairs to send the tentative list of speakers and titles of workshop papers to the EAAS Secretary-General.

December 1, 2013: Deadline for submitting FINAL titles of papers and names and addresses of speakers to the conference organizers.

January 10, 2014: Deadline for information to be included in the 2014 biennial conference program.

Please send all information via e-mail to the EAAS Secretary General, Gert Buelens, at secretary-general@eaas.eu.



AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM SYMPOSIUM

American Exceptionalisms: The ‘City upon a Hill’ in the 21st Century

15th June 2013 / Goldsmiths, University of London

Confirmed keynote speaker: Anna Hartnell (Birkbeck).

From John Winthrop’s 1630 declaration aboard the *Arabella* that America shall be a ‘city upon a hill,’ to the widely held belief in Manifest Destiny in the nineteenth century, to its emergence as a global economic and military superpower in the twentieth century, the notion of America as not only different from other nations, but exceptionally so has repeatedly pervaded political and cultural discourses. To initial settlers, and right up until the early twentieth century, the abundant beauty and wealth of untapped resources that the vast continent offered were further proof of its uniqueness.

Yet, American Exceptionalism not only contains a wealth of paradoxes, but has continually been subjected to critique and questioning within American culture and politics. It is a concept that fetishises the landscape; even as it is ruthlessly plundered for its natural resources. More recently, the similarly fetishised commodities of liberty and freedom have been reduced following the events of 9/11 and the subsequent ‘war on terror.’ The USA Patriot Act, Guantanamo Bay detention centre, the othering of Muslim communities within American cities (for example, the reaction to the ‘Ground Zero mosque’) have all undermined democracy and liberality and create a twenty-first century version of what Donald Pease, following Agamben, refers to as a ‘state of exception’ to the ideals that set America apart as exceptional. However, political discourse has painted these ‘states of exception’ as wholly consistent with the idea of American Exceptionalism: in fact they are necessary to protect America from those who seek to destroy democracy and freedom.

This interdisciplinary symposium aims to explore the multifaceted and paradoxical construct of American Exceptionalism, placing particular emphasis on how it may be interpreted in a twenty-first Century context. Bearing in mind that America is currently enduring its greatest recession since the 1930s, and amid the emergence of competing global economies, is it valid to ask if the concept of exceptionalism still exists? If so,

what new forms does it take? Indeed, does it take new forms or is it possible to transpose former ideas of American Exceptionalism into a twenty-first century context?

We invite proposals for 20 minute presentations loosely based upon the ideas outlined above as articulated through the arts and humanities, media, film, social sciences and other scholarship connected to these areas.

Please send individual abstracts of 250 words to: american.exceptionalisms@gold.ac.uk

Deadline for submissions: **1st FEBRUARY 2013**

Presenters may wish to consider the following topics:

- Interrogations and explorations of 'American Exceptionalism'
- The state of the nation post-9/11
- The American novel in the 21st Century
- Global theories of the nation
- Post-/trans- regionalism
- The 'Homeland'
- Security, foreign policy and border-control
- Federal responses to Hurricane Katrina
- The War on Terror

CALL FOR PAPERS IN BOOK VOLUMES

Transatlantic Intellectual Networks from the early 20th Century to the 1960s

In the past fifteen years, historians have started paying increasing attention to transnational history. Transnational history rests on the belief that historiography is tied up with the nation, and that it is now time for historians to focus less on “national histories” and more on the connections between nations, people and ideas, that is to say on “the relational aspects of historical phenomena.”¹ Thus, after many years during which historians had been shifting their attention away from the European legacy, the past decade has witnessed a revival of interest in Europe from an American perspective, thereby inaugurating a series of transatlantic studies.² In the late XXth century, James Kloppenberg and Daniel T. Rodgers were the forerunners in this field of transatlantic studies.³ In the early XXIst century, Thomas Bender offered new compelling challenges to historians; his call for a new history from a transnational perspective initiated a series of studies that resulted in the publication of *Rethinking American History in a Global Age* in 2002.

Transatlantic relations have thus become a focal point of research for an increasing number of historians in the past decade. While some dimensions of the “new” transnational history, especially migration history and international relations, have been well addressed, others, notably transatlantic intellectual history, are only beginning to emerge as a fully-fledged field of research. In this respect homage should be paid to the pioneer works of Richard Pells (in the U.S.), Rob Kroes (Netherlands) and Maurizio Vaudagna (Italy).⁴

This book intends to make an important contribution to the burgeoning new field of transatlantic historiography. It will focus on the relations between American and European intellectuals between 1914 (the outbreak of the European War as they Americans were wont to call it at the time) and 1964 (which marks both the heyday of the Cold War when, in the wake of John F. Kennedy’s death, the 1960s were about to break loose in both the U.S. and Europe, and the end of the immediate postwar period when a particular type of fascination with America on the part of European intellectuals came to an end). More specifically it will examine the way American intellectuals’ vision influenced foreign intellectuals’ perception of American culture and intellectual life and how, conversely, foreign intellectuals sometimes helped to shape the Americans’ vision of their own country.⁵ It seems indeed that transatlantic studies should work both ways and enable the historian to look with equal

1 « The La Pietra Report: A Report to the Profession », The Organization of American Historians/ New York University Project on Internationalizing History, 2000.

2 See Maurizio Vaudagna (ed.), *The Place of Europe in American History: Twentieth Century Perspectives* Torino, Otto Editore, 2007, p.3; Thomas Bender, *Rethinking American History in a Global Age*, Berkeley, University of California Press, 2002, introduction.

3 James Kloppenberg, *Uncertain Victory, Social Democracy and Progressivism in European and American Thought, 1870-1920*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1986; Daniel T. Rodgers, *Atlantic Crossings, Social Politics in a Progressive Age*, Cambridge, Mass., The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1998.

4 Maurizio Vaudagna (ed.), *The Place of Europe in American History*, *op.cit.* Rob Kroes, *If You've Seen One, You've Seen the Mall: Europeans and American Mass Culture*, University of Illinois Press, 1996.

5 For example, French Intellectuals like Romain Rolland or Anatole France kept praising the US and its new culture unhampered by the weight of traditions and telling American intellectuals that they should see this lack of traditions as an opportunity to create freely.

attention at the European influence on American culture (and American intellectuals' perception of their culture) and at the American intellectuals' influence on their European counterparts. Moreover, as intellectuals are the major agents of cultural transfers, thanks to their travel but also to their publications in foreign magazines and their translations of foreign literature, one should look closely at the way they contributed to cultural exchanges and to the construction of transatlantic intellectual networks. As this book aims to demonstrate, the study of transatlantic intellectual networks throws important new light on how ideas 'traveled' across borders. More generally it aims to illuminate how US culture was perceived and understood by Europeans and how American intellectuals envisioned "Europe," in reciprocal dialogue and interaction with each other.⁶

An intellectual network can be more or less formally organized; thus several individuals may gather around a central intellectual figure or 'mentor', or may cluster together around a magazine, salon or associate on the basis of a common literary or political platform. In the 1920s well-known American intellectuals such as Malcolm Cowley, John Dos Passos or Waldo Frank spent a great deal of time in Europe, and, as often as not, established elaborate contacts with their European counterparts. They often willfully set out to forge transatlantic intellectual circles or networks, fostering cooperation between intellectuals and contributing to cultural exchanges through the founding of transatlantic magazines, translations of novels, mediations with publishers overseas, membership in international organizations, or simply created loose forms of communication, as in epistolary friendships between European and American writers. But a network can also be formed by several groups - whether parties, clubs, magazines- sharing one common aim (whether ideological, political, or aesthetic). In this respect, the numerous American organizations dedicated to promoting and preserving peace between 1915 and 1918 seem to have formed a remarkable network sharing not only a common goal but also a number of members. Indeed, the Socialist Party of America, the Women's Party, the American Union Against Militarism and the People's Council all tried to promote peace, and the intellectuals who met through these organizations - Randolph Bourne, Jane Addams, Max Eastman, Crystal Eastman, Scott Nearing, or Ann and Winthrop D. Lane - were often members of several of them. They formed a loose transatlantic network with Romain Rolland (in France), Bertrand Russell and Norman Angell (in England).

The contributions will focus on intellectual networks that involved both European and American intellectuals from World War I to the mid-1960s. The book will deal with the shifting image of American culture in the 20th century and the part played both by American and European intellectuals in shaping this image. It will also address the question of the intellectual networks that were formed by American and European intellectuals in the 20th century as they began to travel on a more regular basis, therefore contributing not only to human exchanges but also to cultural and ideological ones.⁷

6. Richard Pells, *Not Like Us: How Europeans Have Loved, Hated, and Transformed American Culture Since World War II*, New York: Basic Books/Harper Collins, 1997. In his latest book released in 2011, *Modernist America: Art, Music, Movies, and the Global Impact of American Culture*, New Haven, Yale University Press, 2011. Pells explains that America's global cultural impact is largely seen as one-sided, with critics claiming that it has undermined other countries' languages and traditions. But contrary to popular belief, the cultural relationship between the United States and the world has been reciprocal, says Richard Pells. The United States not only plays a large role in shaping international entertainment and tastes, it is also a consumer of foreign intellectual and artistic influences.

7. In the late 19th century, the former generation of intellectuals (including Gertrude Stein and Henry James) had already chosen to settle in Europe in order to flee the drabness of life in the U.S.

GRANTS

EAAS TRAVEL GRANTS

The European Association for American Studies invites applications for the 2013 EAAS travel grants. Postgraduate students in the Humanities and Social Sciences who are registered for a higher research degree at any European university, and are members of an American Studies association may apply. Two kinds of grants are available: the Transatlantic Grant and the Intra-European Grant. It is expected that four scholarships will be available this year. The maximum single award granted may amount to EUR 2,000.

The Transatlantic Grant will permit the holder to conduct research which illuminates a particular area of American Studies in a designated university, independent research organization or archive in the United States.

The term of the grant will be between three weeks (minimum) and eight weeks (maximum). Successful applicants will receive a grant intended to cover round trip travel and some of the living expenses. Only students registered for a Ph.D. are eligible to apply for the Transatlantic Grants.

The Intra-European Grant will allow the recipient to conduct research for a period of up to four weeks in an American Studies Center or university library or archive in Europe. Graduate students who are registered either for a Ph. D. or a Master's degree by research are eligible to apply for Intra-European Grants.

Applications must be made on the official form and should include written confirmation from the host institution that the researcher will have access to the necessary resource materials, and a letter from the student's academic supervisor. Applicants will be required to supply a detailed estimate of the cost of their visit, including the cost of travel, subsistence, and incidentals. They should also state the minimum amount of money needed to make the trip possible. Applicants are encouraged to seek supporting or matching funding wherever possible.

Grant recipients will be responsible for making their own arrangements for travel and accommodation. Travel must be completed within twelve months of the grantee being notified of the award. Grantees will be required to submit a report to EAAS within thirty days of returning from their research visit.

The **application deadline** for the current round is **Friday, March 15, 2013**. You may download the Application Form as a Word file (856 KB) or a PDF file at <http://www.eaas.eu/eaas-grants/travel-grants>

UNIVERSITY OF HULL STUDENTSHIPS

The University of Hull has launched its UK/EU and International Studentships list for next year. There are 20 studentships available in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences with 4 potential American Studies research areas. The deadline for application is **11 JANUARY 2013**. Please follow the link below to apply or search the University of Hull web page for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The studentships cover fees and maintenance for three years (£13,590 subject to confirmation for 2013/14).

<http://www2.hull.ac.uk/student/graduateschool/phdscholarships.aspx#FASS>

If you have questions please contact: Dr Jenel Virden, University of Hull, J.Virden@hull.ac.uk or 01482-465287.

HELAAS List serv

The HELAAS List-serv consists of an electronic mail discussion list and a related network site on the World Wide Web.

Please use this list for the discussion of virtually anything pertaining to the broad range of American Studies.

Messages to be circulating in this List-serv will concern news about: teaching and research projects, works in process, announcements of conferences, jobs, grants, fellowships, internet resources, book reviews, syllabi exchanges etc.

Also, you are invited to use this List-serv as an e-forum where you could post questions/queries or host debates over academic issues relating to American Studies.

An archive of all previously posted messages on the List-serv will be kept. All messages will be sorted by date or subject (eg. Women studies, cultural studies, teaching of American literature, etc).

Given that the HELAAS List-serv will be a semi-public e-forum, the list's editors, managers, advisory board and the association itself bear no responsibility for messages forwarded to people outside the list without the initial contributor's prior consent.

We hope that you find this List-serv service useful and constructive.

For any comments or suggestions, please contact:

<trapatz@enl.auth.gr> and <ppatsala@enl.auth.gr>

HELAAS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your 2012 Fee is now due.

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

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

The fee amounts to **15 Euros** per annum for students or **20 Euros** per annum for regular members. If you are a student, please verify your status by sending us a photocopy of your Student ID (Fax: 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:

PIRAEUS BANK, Account Number: 5272-026131-179

BIC: PIRBGRAA

IBAN: GR75 0172 2720 0052 7202 6131 179

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>