

Fall/Winter 2013



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

In this Issue:

Members' Corner

EAAS International Conference

HELAAS International Conference

Call for Papers

Visit the HELAAS website at

www.enl.auth.gr/helaas

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EDITORIAL

Dear HELAAS members,

Despite all challenges throughout 2013, our association has remained active and creative thanks to all of you! Your initiatives, projects and actions have filled all of us on the board with hope and optimism for the year to come!

We would like to thank those of you who either attended or participated as speakers in our symposium with the title «Χω/ορο-γραφώντας την Αμερική» which was held in Thessaloniki between 6-7 December 2013 as well as those of you who offered their voluntary assistance during these two busy but exciting days. The papers presented touched upon a variety of subjects and themes ranging from literature and art to photography, opera, dance and digital writing.

In the New Year HELAAS will be organizing its international conference to be held in Athens between 27-29 November 2014 in collaboration with the Faculty of English Language and Literature in National and Kapodistrian University of Athens with the title “The War on the Human: Human as Right, Human as Limit and the Task of the Humanities” (you can find the Call for Paper in our newsletter).

We are also happy to announce the launching in 2014 of our HELAAS journal in an open access format to be supported by Aristotle University Library and Information Center.

In addition, we are working on the final details as regards the upgrading of our HELAAS constitution which will pave the path for many more initiatives as well as secure and strengthen the administrative status of our association.

For all the above, we’ll keep you updated with emails and announcements throughout the year. The next big event is taking place in The Hague, Netherlands, for the EAAS 60th anniversary conference to be held between 3-6 April, 2014. Hope to see some of you there.

With all these plans for the near future, we send you our warmest wishes for a year of Hope, Health and Creative Energy!!

***We look forward to sharing all these endeavors with you**
Happy 2014!!*



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

Kalfopoulou, Adrienne. *ΞΕΝΗ, ΞΕΝΟ, ΞΕΝΙΤΙΑ. Μετάφραση- Επίμετρο: Κατερίνα Ηλιοπούλου. Αθήνα: Μελάι, 2013.*

This is a bi-lingual collection of Adrienne Kalfopoulou's poems dealing with a number of themes, such as biculturalism.

HELAAS MEMBERS' ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

Cathy Marazi received the 2013 Excellence Grant (Υποτροφία Αριστείας) from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.



Anna Fyta attended the International Conference on "H.D. and Modernity," which took place in Ecolé Normale Superieur in Paris between 5-7 December 2013.



Kyriakos Kouveliotis, professor and director of the Hellenic Technological Pole of the **International Telematic University UNINETTUNO, Rome**, has forwarded us information about two MA programs that are offered by **UNINETTUNO**. The one is in Greek and leads to a Master of Science in Health Management, and the other one leads to a Master in European Law and Policies.

For more information, please visit
<http://www.uninettunouniversity.net>
or email athenaeum@otenet.gr



Our two-day Greek-speaking HELAAS symposium with the title «Χω/ορο-γραφώντας την Αμερική» which was held in the Museum of Byzantine Culture in Thessaloniki on Dec. 6th-7th, 2013, attracted a big audience comprised of university students and faculty members, teachers from primary and secondary education plus the general public. Our speakers were HELAAS members, Fulbright Alumni/a and artists. This was a truly interdisciplinary event with papers drawing from archival research, architecture, opera, photography, online space art, dance and gender, dance and spirituality, celebrity autobiography and the entertainment scene, spatial geography, psychedelic space and literature, literature and geography, literature and urbanism, urban performance art, poetry and visual art, online narrative space, multimedia narratives, brands-franchise-transmedia storytelling. The symposium organizers (Tatiani Rapatzikou and Smatie

Yemenedzi) will be proceeding with the publication of a volume (information to be made available shortly).

NEW HELAAS MEMBERS

We would like to welcome our new HELAAS members:

Aikaterini Delikonstantinidou (M.A. student, Dept. of American Literature, School of English, AUTH – Research interests: Performance studies, Folk and Popular Culture, Ethnic Studies)

Elena Delliou (Ph.D. candidate, Dept. of American Literature, School of English, AUTH – Research interests: Comparative Theatre, American History)

Anna Fyta (Ph.D. candidate, Dept. of Medieval and Greek Philology, University of Ioannina – Research interests: Modernism, Feminism, Reception, Modern Drama)

Vasilios Harisis (Ph.D. candidate, Dept. of American Literature, School of English, AUTH – Research interests: Popular Culture, Popular Music Studies, African-American Media Studies)

Lizzy Pournara (Ph.D. candidate, Dept. of American Literature, School of English, AUTH – Research interests: Postmodernism, Digital Literature, History of the Book).

IMPORTANT NOTE

Just wanted to kindly underline that **part of your subscription to HELAAS goes towards covering your fee to EAAS**. For this reason, we would greatly appreciate it if for **any** concern relating to your subscription you would get in touch with the HELAAS Treasurer (kblatanis@enl.uoa.gr) so as to be able to **timely settle all issues**.

Our communication with you is of vital importance to us. So please let the HELAAS Secretary (detsi@enl.auth.gr) and Treasurer (kblatanis@enl.uoa.gr) know of **any change to your contact details (Email, Telephone number and postal address)**.

Thank you so much for all your support!!

EAAS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAAS 60th Anniversary Conference The Hague, The Netherlands, April 3-6, 2014 “America: Justice, Conflict, War“

As President of the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA), it is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to the 2014 EAAS conference in The Hague (The Netherlands). As the “City of Peace and Justice,” The Hague is home to the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Institute for Global Justice, as well as the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, the ICJ is the only one that does not hold its meetings in New York but in The Hague’s famous Peace Palace. We hope that these surroundings will inspire lively discussions on this year’s conference topic: “America: Justice, Conflict, War.” The theme will focus in particular on the paradox inherent in the United States’s commitment to the values of justice, liberty, and democracy, and the often unforeseen and problematic results of attempting to implement these values both at home and abroad – a paradox that has shaped the nation’s history domestically as well as internationally since its inception.

The 2014 EAAS conference will also mark the 60th anniversary of the EAAS, and we will celebrate this event with a total of 30 workshops as well as – for the first time in EAAS history – student panels and student poster presentations. The frame for the conference will be set by three eminent keynote speakers: Richard Carwardine (Rhodes Professor of American History, Oxford, and President of Corpus Christi College Oxford, GB); William Leahy (Director of the Office of Indigent Legal Services, New York, USA); and Willem van Genugten (Professor of International Law, Tilburg University, The Netherlands, and former Dean of The Hague’s Institute for Global Justice). In addition, the program will feature the first-hand report of a war correspondent in the former Yugoslavia and a prosecutor at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Apart from a richly filled academic program, participants will also have the opportunity to take part in a guided “Peace and Justice” tour of the city; moreover, there will be organized tours to the Peace Palace, the Humanity House, and the Yugoslavia Tribunal, as well as to a wide range of art museums and historical places in the vicinity of The Hague.

On behalf of the EAAS and NASA, I very much look forward to welcoming you in The Hague in April 2014.

Dr. Marietta Messmer,
NASA President
Senior Lecturer in the Department of American Studies
University of Groningen
The Netherlands

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

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 preeminent 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

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

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

CALL FOR PAPERS

Transnational Dimensions of Literature and the Arts

5-7 June, 2014

UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST LITERATURE AND CULTURAL STUDIES SECTION

The transnational paradigm has been a very rapidly developing conceptual framework, particularly in the present age of globalization, given the present tendency to transgress national boundaries and to go beyond structures centred on the “national”. As Steven Vertovec points out, since the nineties there has been a continuous rise of interest in the transnational in an impressive number of directions: communities, capital flows, trade, citizenship, corporations, inter-governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, politics, services, social movements, social networks, families, migration circuits, identities, public spaces, public cultures. Transnationalism has almost become ubiquitous in social sciences and the humanities and consequently ambiguous or polysemic, so that its use needs further contextualizing. Its close relationship to globalization, to the point where the two terms are often used interchangeably, further complicates the conceptual muddle and calls for a restriction of the area of its meanings.

In the humanities, transnationalism has been employed both to describe situations produced by contemporary cross-border movement and to provide a new perspective on the study of practices, discourses and products associated with this movement. In studies such as Azade Seyhan’s *Writing Outside the Nation* (2001), Mads Rosendhal Thomsen’s *Mapping World Literature* (2008), Steven Vertovec’s *Transnationalism* (2009) or Sten Pultz Moslund’s *Migration Literature and Hybridity* (2010), transnationalism has played an important part in the theoretical discourses around diasporic cultures, postcolonial identities, migration literatures, the issue of reconceptualizing world literature and of remapping the location of national literatures.

This conference proposes both a theoretical discussion referring to the present need to go beyond the modernist fixation with the “national” as the template employed in literary and cultural studies and a more applied approach that insists on the cross-border circulation of motives, texts, writers throughout the history of literary movements.

We invite papers in English addressing (but not limited to) the following topics:

- the transnational circulation of motifs, themes, topics and their interaction and subsequent “hybridization” with local motifs;
- the transnational movement of writers – starting with travellers (travel literature, etc.) and continuing with migrants (diaspora literature, post-colonial literature “revisited”, literature of bilingual writers)

- the transnational circulation of texts (translations, adaptations, transmedia adaptations, globalization of texts);
- rethinking national literatures as sites of intersection of transnational movements (see the current rethinking of American literature in transnational terms; can this approach be “exported” and applied to other national literatures?)
- diasporic literatures, postcolonial literatures, ethnic literatures, global literatures in English, literary tourism as products of transnational negotiations of meaning;
- rethinking world literature as a site of transnational exchange, and hence of the meanings of transnational canonical works versus the canonical ones;
- teaching transnational literature, involving the teaching of foreign literatures as different from the teaching of the “national”, local/native ones;
- transnational structures of critical reception – world-famous associations such as the MLA, ESSE, MESEA, EAAS, MELUS etc., or prize awarding organizations.

Presentations should be in English, and will be allocated 20 minutes each, plus 10 minutes for discussion. Prospective participants are invited to submit abstracts of up to 200 words (including a list of keywords) in Word format, with an indication of their institutional affiliation, a telephone number and e-mail address at which they can be contacted, and a short bio of up to 100 words. Proposals for panel discussions (to be organized by the participant) will also be considered.

A selection of papers will be published in *University of Bucharest Review* (ISSN 2069–8658; listed on EBSCO, CEEOL and Ulrichsweb; CNCS category B).

Invited Speakers:

James H. Cox (University of Texas at Austin)
Mădălina Nicolaescu (University of Bucharest)
Azade Seyhan (Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania)
Mads Rosendhal Thomsen (University of Aarhus)

Deadline for proposals: **15 March 2014.**

Please send proposals (and enquiries) to litcultstbucharest@gmail.com

The conference fee of **50 euro** or equivalent in Romanian Lei is payable in cash on registration, and covers lunches and refreshments during the conference, but not evening meals.

For further details and updates, see

http://www.unibuc.ro/depts/limbi/literatura_engleza/conferinte.php .

Enquiries regarding the Linguistics section of the conference, which will be running at the same time as the Literature and Cultural Studies section, should be sent to 16.ACED@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming you in Bucharest.

The organizing team:

Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru; James Brown; Eliana Ionoaia; Martin Potter; Ruxandra Rădulescu; Ioana Zirra.

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 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)
- 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 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>