

www.baas.ac.uk ISSN 1465-9956

# American Studies in Britain

Newsletter of the British Association for American Studies

THIS ACRE OF ENGLISH GROUND WAS GIVEN TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN IN MEMORY OF JOHN F. KENNEDY BORN 1917 PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES 1961-63 DIED BY AN ASSASSIN'S HAND 22 NOVEMBER 1963 LET EVERY NATION KNOW WHETHER IT WISHES US WELL OR ILL THAT WE SHALL PAY ANY PRICE BEAR ANY BURDEN MEETANY HARDSHIP SUPPORT ANY FRIEND OR OPPOSE ANY FOE IN ORDER TO ASSURE Provisional E SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS OF LIBERTY PROGRAMMENT OF THE SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS OF THE SURVIVAL AND SUCCE

Programme for the 56th BAAS Annual Conference

American Studies: New Editorial Team

Report of the **BAAS** Annual Postgraduate Conference 2010

US Studies Online: **New Editor** 

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ASIB - American Studies in Britain

**Newsletter of the British Association for American Studies** 

Editor: Kaleem Ashraf

k.ashraf@sheffield.ac.uk

Cover: John F. Kennedy Memorial, Runnymede Meadow, Egham, Surrey, UK.

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# **Editorial**

Earlier this year – before the knees of an Egyptian ruler were finally buckled and after President Obama spoke at the Tucson memorial – fifty years elapsed since President John F. Kennedy delivered his inaugural address. Amongst such massive news stories, I had half expected the anniversary to pass by unnoticed. As it happens, a number of articles appeared in the international press around the 20th of January. Some said: Kennedy's address continues to inspire. Others echoed: Kennedy's speech strongly resonates with people today...I had anticipated this sort of sentiment last Autumn, and got thinking about its validity in a time when many claim to have disengaged from politics altogether. So it was that my visit to the Kennedy Memorial in Runnymede was marked by a stroke of serendipity.

Situated within an acre of land gifted to the United States by the British people, and unveiled on 14 May 1965 by Queen Elizabeth II in the presence of President Kennedy's family, the memorial comprises some beautifully appointed gardens (by landscape architect Geoffrey Jellicoe) and the huge Portland stone tablet you see on the cover of this issue (carved and inscribed by sculptor Alan Collins). To reach the memorial on Cooper's Hill, one climbs forty six stone steps, each one symbolising a year of Kennedy's life. On the afternoon of my visit, I reached the summit to find a dozen or so visitors assembled at the tablet, listening attentively to President Kennedy's inaugural speech through the tinny speaker of an iPhone.

The visitors were a tour group from New York, and their opinions on Kennedy and his speech were mixed. One found the speech "depressing" because "the world hasn't changed" since she grew up in the 1960s. Another believed that Kennedy was "a good man of peace". One remembered listening to Kennedy's inaugural as a girl even more acutely than she recalled "that fateful day" he was shot in Dallas. And to nods of consensus, one told me that Kennedy's speech represented an "eloquent, ideal, undeliverable vision". Whatever the feelings, I was pleasantly surprised at the lively discussion. Of course the venue played a part (one might expect visitors to this memorial to know a little about the

subject), but the level of specific engagement with Kennedy's inaugural address was remarkable. So I can confirm: fifty years on, whether or not it still 'inspires' or 'resonates', Kennedy's speech certainly provokes thought among many people today.

But to the business of this editorial, and some highlights in this issue of ASIB. This year's provisional programme of the 56th BAAS Annual Conference is reprinted here courtesy of the organiser, Theresa Saxon; our Chair, Martin Halliwell, introduces a new editorial team for the Journal of American Studies; Mark Whalan introduces a new editor of US Studies Online; and, Catherine Morley gives notice of the BAAS AGM 2011 and opportunities for membership of the Executive (nomination forms appear at the back of this issue). I am grateful to members who have sent news of their recent publications. Clive Bush and Alan Rice report new material in this issue, and I would encourage others to do the same. I should also like to encourage members to make use of ASIB's 'members' news' section. For all matters ASIB, feel free to contact me with the details on the contents page. The copy deadline for the Autumn issue is 31 July 2011. For now, I wish you the brightest Spring.

- Kaleem Ashraf

# Journal of American Studies: New Editorial Team

BAAS is delighted to welcome the new editorial team of the *Journal of American Studies*: Professor Scott Lucas (Birmingham) as Editor, Dr Celeste-Marie Bernier (Nottingham) as Associate Editor (Reviews), and Dr Bevan Sewell (Nottingham) as Associate Editor (Media). The new editorial team began their term at the beginning of 2011, and will continue to work with Martine Walsh, Senior Commissioning Editor at Cambridge University Press.

The outgoing Editor Professor Susan Castillo (King's College London) has worked on the *Journal of American Studies* for eight years, preceding her four-year term as Editor with a full term as Associate Editor. The BAAS community would like to thank Susan for the intellectual effort and personal enthusiasm she has supplied to the *Journal* over the last decade, and congratulate her on her achievements, including the recent move from three to four issues per year and exciting online developments, which Scott Lucas will take forward during his term as Editor.

The 2010 *Journal of American Studies* Lecture by Professor Wai-Chee Dimock (Yale), delivered at the 55th BAAS Conference at the University of East Anglia and entitled 'Who's Irish? Henry James, Colm Toibin, James Joyce, Gish Jen', is now available as a podcast on the *JAS* website. We look forward to the 2011 *JAS* Lecture given by Professor John Howard (King's College London), "'Stop Murder Music" and the Invention of Black Homophobia', at the 56th BAAS Conference held at the University of Central Lancashire, 14-17 April 2011.

Martin Halliwell (Chair, BAAS)

# US Studies Online: New Editor

BAAS is delighted to announce Carina Spaulding as the new Editor of its postgraduate journal, *US Studies Online*, for a term of three years. Carina is currently a second-year PhD student at the University of Manchester, where she is working on media representations of the black hair care industry. She also brings several years of professional magazine-editing experience to the post. Carina is interested to receive article submissions from postgraduates who would like to publish in the journal, and can be contacted at **carina.spaulding@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk**.

Carina took over from Michael Collins, the interim editor of *US Studies Online*, on 1 February 2011. The BAAS Executive Committee would like to thank Michael, and also the previous editor, Felicity Donohoe, for their hard work on the journal, which continues to be a testament to the high quality of work produced in the British American Studies postgraduate community. We wish Carina every success in her new role.

Mark Whalan (Chair, BAAS Publications Subcommittee)

# The 56th BAAS Annual Conference

# University of Central Lancashire

# 14-17 April 2011

### **Provisional Programme**

# **Thursday 14 April**

**14.00-16.00:** Registration in Darwin Building/

Coffee and Tea in Scholars' Bar

**15.15-16.45:** Library Session

17.30-18.30: The *Journal of American Studies*/Cambridge University Press

**Plenary Lecture:** "Stop Murder Music' and the Invention of Black Homophobia" by John Howard (King's College London)

18.30-20.30: Drinks Reception in Scholars' Bar

19.30: Dinner in Foster Refectory

Post-dinner in Scholars' Bar

# Friday 15 April

Breakfast at Hotel

**09.00-10.30:** SESSION 1

# America's on Drugs (If you believe Movies and TV)

Chair: TBC

Michael Ahmed (University of East Anglia) "Turn On, Tune In, Drop Out": LSD Goes to the Movies'

Wickham Clayton (Roehampton University) 'Unwinding After a Long Day at Work: Responsible Adults Using Drugs in American Cinema'

Gareth James (University of Exeter) "All in the Game": HBO's The Wire, the Verite Documentary and the War on Drugs'

# Radical Art and International Exchange in the 1930s

Chair: Mark Whalan (University of Exeter)

Warren Carter (University College London) 'American Art for an American People: The Impact of Mexican Muralism upon the Treasury Section of Painting and Sculpture'

Barnaby Haran (University of Bristol) 'Kino in America: Experimental Cinema, the Workers Film and Photo League, and the Debates on Soviet Film in the 1930s'

Jody Patterson (Ecole normale supérieure, Paris) 'International Modernism and the American Left during the New Deal period'

#### Melville's Markets

Chair: Michael Collins (University of Birmingham)

Peter Riley (University of Cambridge) 'Melville's Work Songs'

Ellie Stedall (University of Cambridge) 'Impressed Men'

Tom Wright (University of Oxford) 'Melville and Taylor's Market Philosophies'

# Republican Electoral Strategies in the Twentieth Century

Chair: Robert Mason (University of Edinburgh)

Adam Burns (University of Edinburgh) 'The Republican Party and African-American Voters, 1900-1912'

Chris Brown (St. Anne's College, Oxford University) 'Alternatives to "Modern Republicanism": Conservative Electoral Strategy in the Early Cold War'

Douglas M. Charles (Pennsylvania State University) 'Nixon, Hoover, and Obscenity, 1969-1971'

# Twentieth-Century Writing: the Impact of History

Chair: Catherine Morley (University of Leicester)

Catalina Neculai (Coventry University)
"Opportunists without a sense of history"? –
Brightness Falls and the Reaganomic Crisis of
Social Reproduction'

Andy Connolly (National University of Ireland, Galway) Title TBC

Jo Gill (University of Exeter) "The American Way": The Poetry of John Updike'

Louis J. Kern (Hofstra) 'The Embodiment of a Nation: The Iconicity of Uncle Sam and the Construction of a Conflicted National Identity'

# Historicising America in the Nineteenth Century

Chair: TBC

Oisín Eoin Keohane (London School of Economics and Political Science) 'Tocqueville and the American Philosophical Method'

Brian Wall (College of William and Mary) 'The Isolated Mob: A Contemporary Synthesis of Tocqueville's Individualism and Tyranny of the Majority'

William E. Van Vugt (Calvin College, Michigan) "This unholy, cruel, and most brutal war:" Identity and Ambiguity in the American Civil War'

#### Black Identities, History and Culture

Chair: TBC

Nicholas Grant (University of Leeds) 'Fame in the Black Diaspora: African Americans, Africa and the Rise of Global Black Celebrity, 1945-1960'

Brian Rossiter (University of Edinburgh) "They Don't Care About Us": Michael Jackson's Black Nationalism'

Steve Gadet (University of Antilles and Guyane) 'Hip-hop Culture'

### **Taking Liberties: Rights and Power**

Chair: TBC

Ruth Martin (University of Cambridge) "In times of war the law falls silent": Assessing continuities in civil liberties defence during the 1950s Red Scare and the War on Terror' Bart Verhoeven (University of Nottingham) 'The Revival of the Radical Right: The Problem of Right-Wing Activism in Modern American Histiography'

Daniel D. Guedes (Samuel Fraser University) 'Domestic Politics and Regional Trade agreements: How the United States bargains'

10.30-11.00: Tea and Coffee

**11.00-12.30:** SESSION 2

#### **Modern American Drama**

Chair: TBC

Catharine Frances (University of Central Lancashire) 'Transatlantic Stagings: Performing the U.S. in the U.K.'

Gabriella Varró (University of Debrecen): 'The Crisis of Masculinity: The Case of Brick Pollitt and Eddie Carbone'

Lemke Nemeth (University of Debrecen): Title TBC

Presentation by Daniel Orrells (University of Warwick) & Tessa Roynon (St Peter's College, University of Oxford) 'African Athena: New Agendas; its contribution to American Studies'

#### Virtually There: Digital America

Chair: TBC

Michael Thomas (University of Central Lancashire) 'Digital Natives in the Garden: Technology and American Education'

Nelson Barre (Villanova University) 'Internet Identity and Finding Yourself in Pills: The Digital, Psychopharmacology of Next to Normal'

Johan Höglund (Linnaeus University) 'Call of Duty and The Digital Hermeneutics of War'

Tatiani Rapatzikou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) 'Novel Writing for the 21st century: Michael Joyce's was (2007), the case of a Network Novel'

#### **Racial Transitions**

Chair: Alan Rice (University of Central Lancashire)

Rebecca Weir (University of Cambridge) 'Poetry and Participation in The Anglo-African, 1863-1864'

David Doddington (University of Warwick) 'Hierarchies and Honour Among Enslaved Men in the Antebellum South' Adam Thomas (University of California, Irvine) "The White Man who is Black Inside": Racing the Carpetbagger, 1865-1900'

Louise Fenton (University of Wolverhampton) 'Voodoo in New Orleans: Perpetuating the myth in literary representations'

### Rethinking America and the World in the 1950s and 1960s: The US and the Cold War in Latin America and the Middle East

Chair: TBC

Tom Tunstall-Allcock (University of Cambridge) 'The First Alliance for Progress?: Dissenting Voices on Latin America within the Eisenhower Administration'

Bevan Sewell (University of Nottingham) 'The Transatlantic Alliance for Progress: Britain, the US, and Latin America, 1959-1964'

Ben Offiler (University of Nottingham) 'JFK, the Shah and the "massage problem": United States policy toward Iran during the Kennedy administration'

#### **Negotiating Identity: Women and Text**

Chair: Heidi Macpherson (De Montfort University)

Cara Rodway (King's College London) 'Liberated Lesbians: Erotic Possibilities on the Road in Patricia Highsmith's *The Price of Salt*'

Irene Rabinovich (Holon Institute of Technology) 'Hawthorne's Miriam - a Seductive Femme Fatale or a Victim of Abuse?'

Tuba Gönel (International Burch University)
'Breaking Out and Breaking Down Female Spheres
Across Time and Space: Deconstructing the Cult Of
Domesticity in Gilman's *Herland* And Magden's 2 *Girls*'

Alexandra Urakova (Russian State University) "Shreds and Patches": Poe and Godey's *Lady's Book*'

### Transatlantic Exchanges: Memory, Monuments, and American Military Cemeteries in Europe

Chair: TBC

Jonathan H. Ebel (University of Illinois) 'Sacred Flesh, Sacred Nation, Sacred Soil: Suresnes American Cemetery and Twentieth-Century American Messianism' Kate C. Lemay (Indiana University) 'Appropriating Gratitude, Effecting Disaster: The Epinal American Cemetery and the Algerian War'

Sam Edwards (Manchester Metropolitan University) "The Men...Rest in Hospitable Soil": the American Battle Monuments Commission, Madingley Hill, and the Anglo-American Special Relationship'

# Rhetorical Strategies: Shaping Political Identities

Chair: TBC

Graeme Thomson (University of Glasgow) "There are very explosive documents, Dr. Evans": Truman, Presidential Rhetoric and the American Founding Era'

Keith Nottle (University of Nottingham) '1984: James A. Bajer III and the U.S. Presidential Campaign'

Dean J. Kotlowski (Salisbury University) 'The Historian as Detective: Deciphering Franklin D. Roosevelt's Decision to Seek a Third Term'

Tom Cutterham (University of Oxford) 'The strange, sad story of John Adams: in Film, Literature and History'

#### **Modernism in Context**

Chair: TBC

Laura Bekeris (University of Manchester)
"Remembering Right": Gertrude Stein, Financial
Panic and the Development of Early Modernism,
1907-1913'

Mark Whalan (University of Exeter) "The Red War and the Pink": Hobohemians, antimodernism and the Great War'

Teodora Domotor (University of Surrey) 'American Melancholy through Psychoanalysis: The Lost Generation and the American Dream'

**12.30-14.00:** Lunch in Foster Refectory

12.30-13.30: Postgraduate lunch

#### 12.30-14.00: Fulbright Opportunities

Chair: Anne-Marie Evans (University of Central Lancashire)

Mara Oliva (NYU American Studies Institute alumna)

Michael Collins (NYU American Studies Institute alumnus)

Mary O'Hara (Fulbright Award alumna and freelance journalist)

Greg Callus (Fulbright Award alumnus and political analyst)

**13.30-15.00:** SESSION 3

Panel for the Historians of Twentieth-Century United States (HOTCUS)

'National Exclusions: Immigration Restriction in the 20th Century US'

#### **American Poetics**

Chair: TBC

Robin Purves (University of Central Lancashire) 'Accent and Discourse in American Poetry: From Frank O'Hara to Stephen Rodefer'

Karen Veitch (University of Sussex) 'Labour and the Lyric: The Poetry of Miriam Tane'

Nerys Williams (University College Dublin) "Inexpert, I notice with the attention and drifting inattention of poetry": Kaia Sand's poetics'

#### **Evoking Women in American Literature**

Chair: TBC

Charlotte Rhodes 'The "Baby-Mother" and American Women Writers of Colour'

Ann Hurford (University of Nottingham) 'Time to say goodbye': the uncertain trajectory of Anne Tyler's later novels'

Rachael McLennan (University of East Anglia) 'The Banality of Anne Frank in Norma Rosen's Touching Evil and Joyce Carol Oates's *Mother*, *Missing*'

#### **Visual Arts and Visual Texts**

Chair: John Fagg

Anna Woodhouse (University of Leeds) and Siofra McSherry (King's College London) 'Joseph Cornell and the Glass Imaginary'

Joanna Pawlik (University of Manchester) 'Short-circuiting Surrealism: Brion Gysin and the Dream Machine'

Stefanie Albers (University of Duisburg-Essen) 'The Iconography of the Novel: Siri Hustvedt's What I Loved'

#### **Cinema and Technologies**

Chair: TBC

Nick Hall (University of Exeter) "Creepers and Neck Snappers": Exploring Hollywood's Aesthetic Response to the Zoom Lens'

Christopher James Pallant (University of Bangor) "Urbanimation": Representing and Reconfiguring New York City through Animation'

Hayley Trowbridge (University of Liverpool) 'Blending, Mashing and Participating: A Study of Fox Atomic's Marketing Strategies'

#### **US Relations**

Chair: TBC

David Model (Seneca College) 'Pragmatic Idealism: The Rationalisation of Foreign Policy'

Javad Alipoor (University College Dublin) 'US-Iran Relations in the post-9/11 Era: Triangle of Islam, Oil, and Israel'

Marat Vernichenko (State University of Management, Moscow) 'American Political Science in Russian Discourse'

Abdelghani Nait-Brahim (Ecole Normale Supérieure d'Enseignement Technologique d'Oran (ENSET d'Oran)) 'Oppositional Motivation in American Studies: An Occidentalist Approach to American Culture in Algerian Universities'

#### **American Spaces**

Chair: Zalfa Feghali (University of Nottingham)

Razika Touati (Paris VIII University) 'First colonists' houses in Barbados and South Carolina'

Annemarie Galeucia (Louisiana State University) 'Cheap Beer and Rusty Pick-ups: The "Trailer Trash" Stereotype and American Civil Religion'

Jean Kempf (Université de Lyon) 'Loci memoriae in American culture. The reinvention of the "small town" in late 20th century popular fiction'

### Panel sponsored by the US Embassy, Delhi: American Studies in India

Nishi Pandey (University of Lucknow)

T. Vijay Kumar (Osmania University Center for International Programs)

Mandeep Kaur (American Embassy, India)

**15.00-16.00:** Tea and Coffee

**16.00-17.30: The BAAS Annual General Meeting** (Venue TBC)

**17.30-18.30: Plenary Lecture Sponsored by the Eccles Centre,** Title TBC, by Nigel Bowles (Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford)

**19.00:** Drinks reception sponsored by the University of Manchester

Free evening in Preston

# Saturday 16 April

Breakfast at Hotels

09.00-11.00: SESSION 4

### Transatlantic Studies Association Panel: Transatlantic Memory and Public Memorials

Michael Patrick Cullinane (University College Cork) 'London's Curious Public Memorials to Abe and George in the Tense 1920s'

Jeffrey L. Sammons (Yale University) "I am not Sure What it is Supposed to Mean": Heine Monuments in the United States'

John Borgonovo (University College Cork) 'Il Baseball: The American Cemetery at Nettuno and the Development of Italian Baseball'

Alan Rice (University of Central Lancashire)
'Accounting for Ghostly Presences: Ellen
Gallagher's Subterranean Memorial to the Victims
and Survivors of Transatlantic Slavery'

### Historical (dis)connections in Twentieth-Century Literature

Chair: TBC

Theophilus Savvas (University of Essex) 'Making the Connections in History: E.L. Doctorow's The Book of Daniel'

Alexandros Mantzaris (University of Sussex)
"Thoughts on a Political Paradox: Norman Mailer's
Left Conservatism and its Relation to the Concept
of "Totalitarianism"

Qiao Guo Qiang (Shanghai International Studies University) 'Connection and Disconnection in Saul Bellow's *The Bellarosa Connection*' Nicholas Murgatroyd (University of Bradford) 'Resisting the Encyclopaedia: E. L. Doctorow's The Book of Daniel'

#### **Shaping U.S. Policy**

Chair: TBC

Nick Cleaver (University of East Anglia) 'The Dangers of Neutrality: Grover Cleveland and the Use of Neutrality as a Foundation for American Foreign Policy in the mid-1890s'

Helen Bury (University of St. Andrews) 'Shaping the Cold War Consensus: the Committee on the Present Danger and the Special Studies Project, 1950 to 1959'

Paula Dalziel (Edge Hill University) '9/11: The Media Facilitates the Rhetoric of the President'

Alan Capps (George Mason University) 'The challenge of writing federal history: The case of homeland security'

# Perspectives on Native American Identities and Social Issues

Chair: TBC

Alex Runchman (Trinity College Dublin) "Another race has filled/These populous borders": William Cullen Bryant's poetry of transience'

Geoffrey Plank (University of East Anglia) 'Christianity, Resistance and Native American Prophesy: The Story of Papunhank, 1760-2011'

Chris Vernon (University of Warwick)
"Intelligences" and "Little Lies", Rumour in the
Cherokee Backcountry 1740-1785'

Will Fox (CADC) 'Addiction, Alcoholism and Other Dependencies in Native America "How and Why"

# Negotiating Identities: Gender and Representation

Chair: Heidi Macpherson (De Montfort University)

Hilary Emmett (University of Queensland) 'Sympathy and Seduction: Representing Sisterhood in the *Regime of the Brother*'

Anne-Marie Evans (University of Central Lancashire) "Kissing your hand may make you feel very very good but a diamond and sapphire bracelet lasts forever": Women, Shopping and Consumerism in Anita Loos' *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*'

E.J. Ardaneshwari (University of Indonesia) 'Woman Empowerment Ideas in Editorial Pages of Glamour USA Magazine January – December 2007'

Rachel Farebrother (University of Swansea) "'You'd better Hegel on home": Race, Space and Gender in Percival Everett's Erasure'

#### **Modern and Contemporary Cinema**

Chair: TBC

Sarah Wharton (University of Liverpool) 'Evil Is Not Enough: The Re-imaging of Michael Myers'

Joe Street (Northumbria University) 'Dirty Harry's San Francisco'

Helen Oakley (The Open University) 'New Criminal Directions: Breaking Bad'

Emma Staniland (University of Leicester) 'Violence on the Inside: 9/11 as Context in *Remember Me* (Allen Coulter, 2010)'

#### **Music and Identities**

Chair: Will Kaufman (University of Central Lancashire)

Christian O'Connell (University of Gloucestershire) 'The First Time I Heard the Blues: Paul Oliver's Blues Fell This Morning: the Meaning of the Blues: Visions of African American life through the Blues'

Gillian Mitchell (University of St. Andrews) 'A Comparison of Responses to Rock 'n' Roll Music in Britain and the United States, 1955-1963'

Emilee L Simmons (University of Leeds) "Maps and Legends": The Affects of Southern Influences on the Identity of R.E.M.'

Phil Langran (University of Lincoln) 'Nailing the Myth: The Country Singer as Romantic Artist in Thomas Cobb's Crazy Heart'

#### William Faulkner

Chair: TBC

Ed Clough (University of East Anglia) "No real hard feelings on either side"? Faulkner and the Dimensions of Lynching'

James Harding (University of Sussex) 'Coming into Hiding, or, Defacing the Face: The Semantics of Race in William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*'

Ali Khodamoradi (Azad University) 'The Quantum Theory and Criticism in Modern American Literature' 11.00-11.30: Tea and Coffee

11.30-12.30: SESSION 5

#### The Octoroon: A Roundtable Discussion

Lisa Merrill (Hofstra)

Alan Rice (University of Central Lancashire)

Theresa Saxon (University of Central Lancashire)

#### **James Huneker**

Chair: TBC

John Fagg (University of Birmingham) 'James

Huneker: Gourmand and Conduit'

Ian F. A. Bell (Keele University) 'A "Physics of Thought": The Modernist Materialism of James

Huneker'

#### Visibility in American Literature

Chair: TBC

Nasser Hussain (Leeds Metropolitan) 'In Visible Citizenship: Hiding subversion in plain sight'

Elizabeth Throesch (York St John) 'From *The Invisible Man* (1897) to *Invisible Man* (1953): the unseen dimensions of Wells, Du Bois and Ellison'

#### Narrative Structure in Hawthorne and Poe

Chair: TBC

Dominic Claisse (University of Valenciennes) 'Numbers in the works of Nathaniel Hawthorne'

Edward Sugden (Oxford University) 'Defining "American" Time: From Chronometric Expeditions to Edgar Allen Poe's *Eureka*'

#### **Racial Identities in Film**

Chair: TBC

Elizabeth Rawitsch (University of East Anglia)
"Can You Be Both?": Asian/Americans and
National Identity in Frank Capra's *American Madness* (1932) and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (1944)'

Jon Ward (University of East Anglia) "Stay away or I'll jump!" The spectre of the black male in D.W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation* (1915)'

#### **Thomas Pynchon**

Chair: TBC

Doug Haynes (University of Sussex) 'Inherent Virtue: Golden Hoards, Dentistry and Incest in Thomas Pynchon's *Inherent Vice*' Joanna Freer (University of Sussex) 'LSD and Timothy Leary in Thomas Pynchon's *The Crying of Lot 49*'

#### Citizenship?

Chair: TBC

Nina Fischer (University of Constance) 'History and Memory'

Zalfa Feghali (University of Nottingham) 'New Cartographies of Citizenship: Guillermo Gómez-Peña's *America*'

#### Poetry on America: Transatlantic Views

Chair: TBC

Michael Parker (University of Central Lancashire) 'Through Strangers' Eyes: Representations of America in the Poetry of Czeslaw Milosz and Seamus Heaney'

Thomas Day (University of Central Lancashire) 'Geoffrey Hill's American English'

12.30-13.30: Lunch at Scholars' Restaurant

13.30-15.00: SESSION 6

# Text and Process: Publishers and the Production of Text

Chair: Theresa Saxon (University of Central Lancashire)

Alison Lutton (St Hugh's College, Oxford) 'JT LeRoy, authorship, and the media'

Josephine Metcalf (University of Manchester) 'White Lies & Black Consequences; the Complex Dynamics of the Publishing Industry'

Daniel King (University of Nottingham) 'Toilers in the Orchard: The Long Genesis of *The Orchard Keeper*'

#### **Fashioning the Transatlantic**

Chair: TBC

Sarah Heaton (University of Chester) 'Le Rue de La Paix or the Ladies Mile: The Transatlantic Exchange of Dress in the Fiction of Edith Wharton'

Deborah Wynne (University of Chester) 'Dressing Henry James: The drama of costume in Jane Campion's *Portrait of a Lady*'

Sally West (University of Chester) "The Woman": (Cross)-Dressing the Part and Transatlantic Identities in Arthur Conan Doyle's Fiction'

#### **American Identities on Stage**

Chair: TBC

Laura MacDonald (University Groningen/ University of East Anglia) "We Know We Belong to the Land": Postwar Democracies Sing an American Tune Abroad'

HollyGale Millette 'Identity, Movement and the Turn to the Modern in Trans-Atlantic Performance History'

Emily Kelly-Padden (Southern Illinois University) 'The Darker Side of Belonging: Discursive Violence as a Strategy of Containment in Tea and Sympathy'

Fransesca de Lucia 'Secrecy, guilt and ethnic projection in Anthony Giardina's plays'

#### **Space and Identities**

Chair: TBC

Catherine Rottenberg (Ben-Gurion University)
'Theorising the City: Wallace Thurman's The *Blacker the Berry*, Urban Space and the Question
of Democratisation'

Rebecca Cobby (University of Nottingham ) 'Black Males in the 'Whitey Museum': black artists and the art establishment in 1990s New York'

Guillermo G. Caliendo (Hofstra University) 'MLK Boulevard: Material Forms of Memory and the Rhetorical Contestation of Racial Signification'

Eric J. Sandeen (University of Wyoming) 'Living Heart Mountain: The Japanese American internment and the Contemporary Wyoming Landscape'

#### **Political Conservatism**

Chair: TBC

Patrick Andelic (University of Oxford) 'The Other Side of the Conservative Ascendancy, 1968-2008'

Karen Heath (University of Oxford) 'The Politics of Art: Conservatives and the National Endowment for the Arts'

Edward Adkins (University of Oxford) 'The Nixon Administration, the "Southern Strategy", and the Charleston Strike of 1969'

Tom Packer (University of Oxford) Title TBC

#### **Cinematic Scapes**

Chair: TBC

Richard Martin (University of London) 'The Architecture of David Lynch'

Ni Komang Arie Suwastini (Ganesha University Singaraja) 'The Political Economy behind the Commercial Success of the Film Adaptations of Jane Austen's Novels in America'

Lincoln Geraghty (University of Portsmouth) "I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore": Examining Smallville's Canadian Cult Geography'

# Negotiating Identities in Comic Strips and Graphic Novels

Chair: TBC

Ian Gordon (National University of Singapore) 'History and Identity: How Superman Became an American Icon'

Susana M. Costa (New University of Lisbon)
"Hully Gee!", "He's a Corker, a born New Yorker":
Identity negotiation in early ethnic comic strips'

Evita Lykou (University of York) 'Staging the Dream-Space on the Comics Page: Elements of Psychoanalysis on a Contemporary Graphic Novel

#### Religion and belief in American Fiction

Chair: TBC

David Greenham (University of the West of England) 'Emerson's Epistemology of Form: From Design to Romance in New England'

Helen Brew (University of Louisiana at Lafayette) 'A Triad of Feminine Influence: Mrs. Wilson, Mary Hull, and Crazy Bet's Roles in Catherine Sedgwick's A New-England Tale'

Bajrang Korde (University of Pune) 'Various Facets of the Life of Puritans in Early America'

**15.30-16.00:** Tea and Coffee

**16.00-17.30:** SESSION 7

#### **Black Heroism and Visual Culture**

Chair: TBC

Lisa Rull (University of Nottingham)
'Representations of virtual selves and racial identities in "The Surrogates"

Celeste-Marie Bernier (University of Nottingham) "the houl intir batel feel were hell": "Suffering,"

"Sunset" and Aesthetic Experimentation in Horace Pippin's World War I Manuscripts and Paintings'

Sinéad Moynihan (University of Exeter) "Watch me go invisible": Representing racial passing in the African American Graphic Novel'

#### **American Masculinities**

Chair: TBC

Emma J. Dodds (University of Wyoming)
'Deconstructing the Cowboy: Representations of
Manhood in Revisionist Westerns'

Fraser Mann (York St John University) 'Vulnerable Masculine Identities in twentieth-century American novels of war'

Christine Guilfoyle (University of Southampton) 'A Letter to Johnny Depp'

#### **Nineteenth-Century Literature**

Chair: TBC

Michael Collins (University of Birmingham) "It puts on something of a real look" – Fraternity, Ritual and the Sublimation of Paper Money in Herman Melville's *The Paradise of Bachelors and the Tartarus of Maids*'

Alasdair Pettinger 'Moby-Dick and the Future'

Peter Rawlings (University of the West of England) 'Sensational Narratives: Edgar Allan Poe and Henry James'

Mark Storey (University of Nottingham)
'Performing Realism: Popular Entertainment in the
Boyhood Memoirs of William Dean Howells and
Henry James'

#### **Raymond Chandler**

Chair: TBC

Will Norman (University of Kent) 'Chandler, Modernism and Mass Culture'

Sarah Trott (Swansea University) 'Raymond Chandler's Detective and Post-Combat Trauma: Reading Philip Marlowe as a Veteran Of War'

Maysaa Jaber (University of Manchester) '(In) visible Female Agency: The Criminal Femme Fatale in Raymond Chandler's Fiction'

#### **Dramaturgy, Form and Reception**

Chair: Laura MacDonald

Sue Tyrrell (Keele University) 'The Dramatic

Significance of the Screens in Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*'

Will Kaufman (University of Central Lancashire) "It's Theatre, Innit?" The Dramaturgy of "Live Documentary"

Christophe Collard (University of Antwerp) "Considerations of form fascinate me": On the Importance Being Generic'

#### **Transatlantic and Transnational Fictions**

Chair: TBC

James Peacock (Keele University) 'Reaching Out, Reaching In: Transnational Brooklyn in Geographies of Home and Brooklyn'

Kerstin W. Shands (Södertörn University) 'Transatlantic Traces: Desire and Spirituality in Gail Godwin's Unfinished Desires'

Finn Pollard (University of Lincoln) "somebody's always in the lead an' setting the fashion": The British Literary Image of the United States on the eve of World War Two'

#### **Early Cinema**

Chair: TBC

Owen Clayton (University of Leeds) 'Cinema and Transition in The Valley of the Moon'

John Horne (University of Birmingham) 'Where Madness is Seen but not Heard: The Psychiatric Institution in Silent Cinema'

Alan Bilton (Swansea University)'Dizzy Doras and Big-Eyed Beauties: Mabel Normand and the notion of the female clown in American silent film'

# The Limits of Space in Twentieth-Century Fiction

Chair: TBC

Vidya Ravi (University of Cambridge) 'Trespassing into No Man's Land: The Quest for the Frontier in *Cheever Country*'

Rebecca Janicker (University of Nottingham) "Protecting the hotel was his job. He was the caretaker" – Capitalism, Class and History in *The Shining*'

Andrew Munzer (University of York) 'Framing 'Home': The Apartment Building and Other Suburban Housing in Raymond Carver's Short Fiction'

# 17.30-18.30: Plenary Lecture sponsored by the University of Central Lancashire:

'Revisiting the Transatlantic' by Heidi Macpherson (De Montfort University)

**19.30:** Coach to Westleigh Conference Centre for the BAAS Banquet

23.00: Coach returns to Hotels

# Sunday 17 April

Breakfast at Hotels

09.30-11.00: SESSION 8

#### U.S. and Ireland: Policy and Relations

Chair: TBC

Geoffrey O'Connor (University College Dublin) 'Courting Investment: How Ireland targeted, attracted and facilitated American Investment'

Julieann Galloway (University College Dublin) 'Chasing the Rainbow: Innovation Policy of the "Smart Economies" in Post-Globalised U.S and Ireland'

Martin Russell (University College Dublin)
'Learning to Forget: Irish-American memory and identity during the "Troubles"

Simon Topping (University of Plymouth)
'Stormount, Washington and the Second World
War'

#### Civil Rights, Desegregation and Black Power

Chair: TBC

Zoe Colley (University of Dundee) 'The Unseen Freedom Struggle: Black Power and the Politicisation of African American Prisoners, 1966-1975'

Mark Newman (University of Edinburgh)'The Catholic Diocese of Charleston and Desegregation, 1950-1975'

Clive Webb (University of Sussex) 'The Sharpville Massacre and the American Civil Rights Struggle'

#### 9/11 and DeLillo

Chair: TBC

Catherine Gander (University of East Anglia) 'The still life and death of images: the ethical aesthetic in post 9/11 American fiction'

László Munteán (Pázmány Péter Catholic University) "The Vanishing Point: Spacing the "Falling Man"

Maciej Masłowski (University of Wrocław) 'The body of mourning: Notes on the margins of Don DeLillo's The Body Artist and Falling Man'

#### The Literary Child

Chair: TBC

MA Katrin Korkalainen (University of Oulu) 'Narratives of Lost Youth: Jewish-American Immigrant Children in History and Fiction'

Maeve Pearson (University of Exeter) 'The Sacrificial Child: infancy and The Moral Life in Ursula Le Guin and P K Pick'

Michael Bibler (University of Manchester)
'Recreating the Scene: Literary Childhood and
Queer Initiation in Truman Capote's *Other Voices*, *Other Rooms* and *Dazzle*'

### Seen/Obscene: The Grievous Body in Contemporary American Television

Liz Powell

Hannah Ellison

**Rhys Thomas** 

**11.00-11.15:** Tea and Coffee

11.15-12.15: SESSION 9

#### Theatre and Media

Chair: TBC

Sue Currell (University of Sussex) 'Panic: New Masses and the Drama of Industrial Crisis'

Charlotte Purkis (Winchester) 'Velona Pilcher and her American Theatre Contacts'

#### **Racial Structures and Political Women**

Chair: TBC

Dawn-Marie Gibson (Royal Holloway, University of London) "Helping us to be somebody": African American Women in the Nation of Islam, 1960-1975'

Lee Sartain (University of Portsmouth) "It takes a crusader": Lillie Mae Jackson and the challenges of civil rights leadership in Baltimore, Maryland, 1935-1970'

#### The Body in text

Chair: TBC

Gregory Koss (University of Warsaw) "A figure of the will braving alien entanglements": Robert Frost's Likenesses in *North of Boston* and *Mountain Interval*"

Robert W. Jones II (University of Leicester) 'Visceral Landscapes: The Somatic Philosophy of William S. Burroughs'

### Teaching American Film and Communicating Risk about Climate Change

Chair: TBC

Eithne Quinn 'American Studies and Citizenship: Merging Research and Teaching with

Activism'

Michael Foley (University of Sheffield) 'Writing about Social Movements at Home and Learning about Them in Jail – or Is It OK to Merge Scholarship and Citizenship?'

#### Law in Eighteenth-Century Kentucky

Chair: TBC

Matthew C. Ward (University of Dundee) "How unjustly I have been treated": Land, The Courts and Violence in Early Kentucky'

Blair Smith (University of Dundee) "Them That Ain't Cowards Follow Me": The Contest for Authority during the Siege of Boonesborough and the Battle of Blue Licks'

12.15-13.15: Lunch

**13.30:** Coach Departs for special Conference Field Trip/Visit (Pre-booking Required)

18.30: Coach returns

#### **End of Conference**

For more information (including details of the conference field trip), visit:

www.uclan.ac.uk/information/services/fm/ services/conferences/uclan/american\_studies\_ conference.php

For online registration, visit: www.uclan.ac.uk/information/services/fm/services/conferences/uclan/baas\_registration.php

Email the conference organiser, Dr Theresa Saxon: BAAS@uclan.ac.uk

# Report of the BAAS Annual Postgraduate Conference 2010

The 2010 BAAS Postgraduate Conference, 'American Geographies', took place on 13 November at Oxford's Rothermere American Institute, and was a great success. In addition to noting the high standard of the panels which we ourselves had the pleasure of attending, we were gratified to receive positive feedback from many of the participants, who hailed from universities including UC Berkeley, Cambridge, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, Sussex, Thessaloniki, UCL, Yale, and more.

We were especially privileged to have two outstanding keynote speakers, both of whom delivered impressive and engaging talks. We felt Donald Pease's thoroughgoing meditation on transnationalism and its relation to American Geographies complemented very nicely Nick Selby's rich and eloquent talk on American nature poetics. Overall, the 'American Geographies' conference theme proved to be as inclusive and stimulating a topic as we had hoped it would be.

While our thirty nine papers covered a range of topics across disciplines, we were able to construct ten strong panels centred on themes such as border studies, early national literature and politics, and gender and geography. In addition to the panels, participants had the chance to pick up books to review for *US Studies Online*, get publishing tips from Professor Dick Ellis, hear about opportunities for study or research abroad offered by the Fulbright Commission and the NYU Summer Scheme in New York, and, between events, convene around coffee and sandwiches to meet other researchers, or carry on conversations from prior panels. The atmosphere of collegiality and intellectual curiosity was particularly encouraging.

We would like to thank the BAAS once more for its support throughout the planning process, as well as our keynote speakers, Professor Donald Pease of Dartmouth College and Dr Nick Selby of the University of East Anglia. Many thanks also go to our panellists and participants for helping us put on a truly stimulating and productive conference.

Stephen Ross and Aaron Hanlon (The Organising Team)

# **BAAS Notices and Requests**

### Media Contacts Database: Call for Information

As plans for the REF take shape, it is clear that evaluating the impact of our research will be an increasingly important criterion in the assessment of research activity. Accordingly, BAAS hopes to improve and make more systematic its role as an information gateway for external agencies—especially media — who are seeking to contact experts in British American Studies for the purpose of drawing on their research expertise. We hope to establish a contacts database listing research specialisms and key publications for UK American Studies academics, which will allow media organisations, NGOs, schools, and arts and culture institutions better access to details of the range and location of American studies expertise in the UK.

To that end, we are sending out a call for information to be held by BAAS, and in due course to be made available on our website and in our publications. If you are interested in BAAS passing on your details to such external agencies as a way of helping disseminate your research, please could you respond to Thomas Ruys Smith **thomas.smith@uea.ac.uk** with the following information:

- name, title and academic institution
- list of 4-5 research specialisms (e.g. American modernist literature; the history of the civil rights movement; contemporary US sitcoms)
- list of 2-4 key publications

your phone number, e-mail, and website URL if available.

# BAAS Database of Schools Liaison Personnel

Again with the REF and our impact beyond the academic community in mind, BAAS is keen to increase members' interaction with schools. Accordingly, we hope to establish a contacts database listing details of academic staff and postgraduate students who would be willing to speak to school groups on American Studies topics.

We are therefore issuing a call for information to be held by BAAS, and in due course to be made available on our website. If you are interested in BAAS passing on your details to schools, please write to the BAAS Secretary, Catherine Morley **catherine.morley@leicester.ac.uk**, with the following information:

- name and title
- affiliation with complete contact details including address, telephone, fax, and email
- list of 4-5 research specialisms

By providing this information, you agree to it being passed on to schools who are seeking a speaker on American Studies or a related discipline.

# BAAS Database of External Examiners

The Secretary of BAAS, Catherine Morley, holds a list of potential external examiners. If individuals would like to put their names forward for this list, please email her at **cm260@le.ac.uk** with the following information, in list form if possible:

- name and title
- affiliation with complete contact details including address, telephone, fax, and email externalling experience (with dates if appropriate)
- current externalling positions (with end dates)
- research interests (short descriptions only)

By providing this information, you agree to it being passed on to universities who are seeking an external for American Studies or a related discipline. Should you wish your name to be removed or your details updated in the future, please contact the Secretary. Any university representative interested in receiving the list should also contact the Secretary. BAAS only acts as a holder of the list; it does not 'matchmake'. Paper copies can also be requested by sending a letter to:

Dr Catherine Morley, Centre for American Studies University of Leicester University Road Leicester, LE1 7RH.

# **Travel Award Reports**

#### Founders' Award

I am grateful to the British Association for American Studies for a Founders' Award that enabled me to undertake a week of research in September 2010 at the New York State Archives in Albany. The research is part of a new project on African Americans and parole during the era of segregation that explores former prisoners' experiences on the outside, how these were shaped by different state parole systems, and the ways in which they influenced ideas about punishment, rehabilitation, and the state in the wider black community. My approach to these issues reflects the influence of recent social science research on prisoner "re-entry", which has been understood as a profoundly racialised process in light of the disproportionate and distinctive impact of mass incarceration on African American communities since the 1970s.

Extensive information on black prisoners' dealings with the New York Division of Parole is held in a collection of more than twenty thousand inmate files from Auburn penitentiary. I was able to sample these files across the 1930s and 1940s, a time when parole underwent important changes in New York due to internal policy debates driven by politicians and penal reformers, and external influences such as changing labour demands from the Depression to World War II. Parole applications from this era provide information on prisoners' connections on the outside, including employment histories, family and social networks. The records also contain detailed accounts of parole violations that cast light on former prisoners' efforts to adapt to life on the outside and the challenges they encountered.

I plan to investigate this evidence alongside further research on debates over the appointment of the first black parole officers in New York and a collection of letters sent by black prisoners to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People requesting assistance in obtaining parole. Through these sources it is possible to begin constructing an understanding of how the workings of parole in New York were entangled with issues

of race. Notably, this highlights the significant role of the black community in parole applications and post-release supervision and employment, which marks a stark contrast with white domination of the system in the Jim Crow South.

James Campbell (University of Leicester)

#### Founders' Award

Almost every other historian of my period that I have spoken to over the last month - no matter how eminent – has had a story to tell me about Abilene in Kansas, where I recently undertook two weeks research at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library. "Let me tell you a story about Abilene," they have frequently stated, before going on to recount some tale of mid-west life that they had experienced on their own trips to the place where Eisenhower grew up. These ranged from trips to the Greyhound Hall of Fame, the necessity of joining a 'private' drinking club at a local motel for the princely sum of \$2 in order to circumvent the fact that Abilene is a 'dry town', to the story of one researcher who learnt to shoot during an extended stay in order to find a pastime that fit in with the local populace. The people are really friendly, everyone told me, but it might be a little different to what you are used to.

In the interests of openness – though, alas, at the expense of a rip-roaring travel narrative of a British academic torn out of their comfort zone and compelled to survive on mountains of protein, carbohydrates and coffee – I should mention that I have been to Abilene before. In 2004, during the research for my PhD, I spent two freezing cold weeks there in January. As such, I more or less knew what was coming. Nevertheless, the tales from my fellow historians had proven to be a great comfort as I set out from Heathrow: this, clearly, was a well worn academic path and one that a great number of highly prominent historians had taken. And so, buttressed by the generous funding from BAAS (along with contributions from the British

Academy and the Eisenhower Foundation), I made my way to Kansas City and began a 3-hour drive to Abilene.

Arriving in Abilene, it bears noting, is an unusual experience. The road from Kansas City to Abilene, a journey of some 160 miles, is for the most part completely straight. Consequently, you have an impending sense of your arrival a long time before you actually get there. With non-stop commentary on American Football on the radio and a blazing 90 degree heat as company, however, you quickly get a sense that this is 'real America'. Everybody that's anybody drives a big pick-up style truck. The trains, meanwhile, are enormous; getting caught as one traverses a level crossing inevitably leads to a delay of ten minutes or more as the endless wagons trundle past. And everybody, bar none, wholeheartedly supports the local college football team: banners, pendants, and even number plates proclaiming a devout support of Kansas State Football team are everywhere. It is one of those very American aspects that, whenever I visit, provokes in me a great sense of positivity and one that you can't help but feel compelled to join in with in an effort to found common ground with one's hosts.

Once you arrive and settle in to Abilene, you quickly realise a number of things. First, that Abilene – despite the stories, and despite my ice-induced recollections of my previous visit – is not a bad place to spend some time. Second, the people are indeed remarkably friendly. Third, the town itself, once you get past the car dealerships and fast food outlets near the highway that are so quintessentially American, is very picturesque mixing archetypal mid-west townscapes with leafy, wide boulevards. And fourth, that the Eisenhower Presidential Library, despite being somewhat out of the way, is a superb place to work: the archivists really know the collections and are very helpful, boxes are pulled quickly, and the staff members in the research room are cheery and supportive. Two weeks of research time there, in fact, was undeniably enjoyable (if a little restrictive in the evenings when there really isn't a great deal to do).

The research itself – I suppose I should, really, get to the crux of the matter – was the first part of a major new project that I'm beginning on the Eisenhower administration's policies towards Southeast Asia; a project that, inevitably, is still

only roughly defined. Nonetheless, the time I had in Abilene was hugely beneficial in my starting to get a feel for the topic and for possible directions that the research may go in the future. I was particularly interested in the role played in this process by Eisenhower's Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles – who, despite an early reputation as the dominant force in US foreign policy in the 1950s, has rather fallen by the wayside in the face of 'Eisenhower Revisionism.'

While I was, then, predictably interested in all facets of the administration's approach in this area of the world, I focused a lot of attention on Dulles and, in particular, his personal opinions on US policy and the role of America's allies, Britain and France. What began to occur to me, though admittedly this was only an early and ill-defined thought, was that Dulles's take on Southeast Asia, especially during the battle of Dienbienphu and the Geneva Conference in 1954, was often influenced by his beliefs with respect to what he felt should be done morally or in line with his sense of American/Western identity. There are, of course, a whole host of complications to this that I will, at some point, have to grapple with and clarify. However, it did seem clear that Dulles's disappointment with the events at Dienbienphu and, in particular, his barely disguised annoyance with the role of leading British officials Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden - stemmed from a visceral sense that the British were failing to meet their obligations with regard to standing shoulderto-shoulder with her allies. To be clear, this was not the same as disagreeing with US policy: Dulles did not necessarily have a problem, it seemed to me, if the British disagreed but were prepared to play a fulsome part in the events that were taking place. What did provoke his ire, however, was a sense that the British were being obstructive, non-committal or, worst of all, cowardly. Both Dulles and his leading advisor on this issue, Walter Bedell Smith, are continually to be found in the documentary record venting their displeasure with British policy toward Southeast Asia. Oftentimes, moreover, this developed among Dulles and his advisors into mounting critiques of the character and fortitude of British officials - with sassy labelling of Churchill as 'Mr Cigar' and recurrent discussions about Eden's health being particularly noteworthy examples. Of all the information I found - and, to be sure, there was an enormous

amount – it was perhaps this aspect that provided the greatest indication of ways that the project will move forward as I plan and undertake further research trips.

Without the generous support of a BAAS Founders' Award, then, I would not have been able to throw myself into the research in this way. As I begin to consider how I develop this project further in the coming months and years, it will be on the back of an enormously fruitful research trip to Abilene that I could not have undertaken without the support of BAAS. And while 2 weeks in Abilene is not, as my fellow historians accurately noted, like what I'm used to, it was nevertheless enjoyable and enormously worthwhile. Shamefully, I've rather lost touch with how Kansas State are currently doing in the College Football stakes; perhaps writing this report will provide the impetus for me to renew my acquaintance with them.

Bevan Sewell (University of Nottingham)

#### **BAAS John D. Lees Travel Award**

Being awarded the BAAS John D. Lees Travel Award provided invaluable financial support for research towards my PhD thesis, Defending civil liberties: Fractured alliances and the development of modern justice, 1951-1972. The project assesses the strategies employed by a civil liberties coalition that aimed to ensure equal, race-blind justice in the judicial system. In particular, I analyse the role played by the American Civil Liberties Union, National Lawyers Guild and Emergency Civil Liberties Committee in the defence of the right to due process for unpopular groups in society (including communists, radical civil rights activists and segregationists). These organisations' methods included attempts to set precedents in the federal courts, and grass-roots defence of individual clients in state courts. My aim during this research trip was to assess the expansion of civil liberties lobbying activities in Washington DC and the consequent federal government response. Increasing public concern over 'law and order' in the wake of civil disobedience by Southern blacks in the mid-1960s dwarfed public focus on the implicit (and occasionally explicit) approval of violence by local police and government, which

uncomfortably echoed the 'lynch law' of earlier decades. The assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, accompanied by urban riots in Northern cities intensified the public impression of a rise of epidemic lawlessness, increasing pressure on both the federal government and the civil liberties coalition to address national criminal justice policy.

My research trip started in Princeton, New Jersey in April 2010. I presented a paper at the Princeton University Southern Nation conference entitled 'Southern Justice and Civil Liberties groups: Moral quandaries in civil rights defense, 1961-77'. This experience of an international conference gave me the opportunity to discuss my topic with leading academics and also to meet fellow graduate students in the field of American studies. After continuing on my trip to Texas, I spent three weeks at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin. Building upon prior research completed at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston, Massachusetts, the award enabled me to explore several important collections in the archives. My overall aim was to gauge the federal government's responsiveness to civil liberties groups' demands for the de facto establishment of due process and the right to a fair trial, particularly for demonstrators in the civil rights movement. I focused on the Judicial-legal files concerning rioting and the Human Rights files on the 'Equality of the Races', in addition to the personal papers of key lawyers in the Department of Justice, including Attorney General Ramsey Clark and Special Counsel Harry McPherson. My research trip and access to primary sources provided a fresh insight into President Johnson's personal relationship with leading civil libertarians, including National Lawyers Guild President Clifford Durr and his wife Virginia, the famous 'Freedom Writer' who had links with Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. My research also highlighted key debates within the civil liberties coalition, as they strove to influence government policy. Towards the end of the 1960s, internal debates included disagreements over the legal support offered to the American Nazi Party and the United Klans of America, questions over whether civil disobedience in opposition to the Vietnam war was morally or legally defensible, and also whether picketing restrictions around the White House unfairly prioritised security over freedom of speech.

I am immensely grateful to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library for allowing me access to the archives, and to the individual archivists for their hard work and expertise in suggesting relevant record collections. The documents I found will form a seminal part of my PhD thesis. The trip also highlighted future research yet to be done, which I will complete at the New York University Center for the United States and the Cold War, having been awarded a dissertation fellowship for the academic year 2010-2011. I wish therefore to reiterate my sincere appreciation to BAAS for providing me with this invaluable opportunity, and I hope to present some of my research conclusions at the 2011 BAAS conference.

Ruth Martin (University of Cambridge)

#### **BAAS Abraham Lincoln Prize**

I have recently completed a ten week research trip to the United States as a part of my doctoral research, with the generous help of a BAAS Abraham Lincoln Prize. This was the first of three proposed research trips to the United States.

Beginning in Boston, I consulted the Ward-Bates Correspondence and the Papers of Edward Everett at the Massachusetts historical society; and the Abbott Lawrence, James Russell Lowell, and John Lothrop Motley papers at the Houghton Library, Harvard, in addition to a number of pamphlets only available at the latter. The first of these will make an invaluable contribution to the early period of my study given its detail and chronological extent. This was followed by a three week fellowship at the Phillips Library, Salem MA. Here I predominantly consulted the papers of George Peabody. This collection proved invaluable, as the banker acted as the nucleus for the American expatriate community in London throughout the 1850s. Whilst in Salem I was also able to take advantage of the Philips Library's extensive collections and consulted the Remond, Hudson, and Curwen family papers in addition to a number of unpublished travel diaries about the UK which broadened my investigations of the racial dimension to travel across the Atlantic.

Salem was followed by a visit to the Rhode Island Historical Society in Providence. This was one of the most profitable visits of my trip, as it moved the focus of my study away from elite transatlantic financiers, diplomats, and writers towards two as yet unexamined individuals. The first was John Talbot Pitman, a patent lawyer from Providence, RI, who travelled to England in 1855 to establish a patent office. Pitman was previously only known for brief cameos in Benjamin Moran's Journal, but I hope will feature prominently in my doctoral dissertation given the concern revealed in his papers over the denationalising and re-socialising affects of residence abroad. The second was John McLaughlin, a working class resident of Providence who travelled to Leeds in 1891. "The more days the more dollars," wrote McLaughlin of his stay in January 1892, adding dual contributions toward the history of working class and Economic migration from the United States to Great Britain.

Two weeks in New Britain and Hartford, CT, allowed me to examine the papers of Elihu Burritt. The Burritt papers provided valuable insights into the interface between nationalism, internationalism, and humanitarianism in the nineteenth century. Burritt was a prolific author of short tracts covering a wide range of issues. During his time in England, however, he meditated upon the nature of nationalism and national identity whilst marshalling a campaign for Ocean Penny Postage and three International peace Congresses between 1848 and 1850. Finally, I concluded my trip with a visit to the New York Historical society where I consulted a series of pamphlets concerning expatriation debates in Congress from both 1814 and 1868.

The Abraham Lincoln Prize was therefore essential to both the funding of this trip and for my doctoral research as a whole, opening up new avenues of inquiry and clarifying older research areas. Many thanks to the BAAS committee for their generous award.

Stephen Tuffnell (University of Oxford)

#### **BAAS Short-Term Travel Award**

A BAAS Short-term Travel Award made possible my extremely valuable research visit to Philadelphia in September 2010. Almost a year into my PhD at the University of Glasgow, this was my first trip to the United States, allowing me to access a diverse range of important sources, while finally adding substance to my previously detached perspective from this side of the Atlantic.

My PhD research considers allusions to the leaders, events, documents and values of the American founding era in presidential rhetoric since 1945. I look at these references in terms of America's conception and articulation of national identity and, further, consider the manner in which the revolutionary period represents a rhetorically usable past, easily adaptable and often distorted to suit varying political contexts and policy agendas. Given my contentions regarding the distortion and mythologising of the founders and their work, it is important for me to consider the legacy they intended, the immediate reception of their words and deeds, and the way in which they were remembered and commemorated in the years following their deaths. Philadelphia's central importance in the birth of the nation, and the strength of the city's eighteenth and early nineteenth century collections, made it an essential location for the investigation of these themes.

The vast majority of my seventeen day visit was spent working in the Library Company of Philadelphia, home to an exhaustive collection of founding-era sources. I had been lucky enough to secure a room in the adjacent fellows' residence and, indeed, the advice and attention of the library staff and other scholars present could scarcely have been more generous had I been a fellow myself. My initial focus was on the many eulogies delivered following the deaths of the leading founders, in particular George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. Many of these (particularly those concerning Washington) are collected together in single volumes; others, from a diverse range of towns and states, appear individually. All of them gave a significant insight into the elevated, almost mythic position the founding fathers had already achieved upon their deaths and into the qualities of character and the political values that their contemporaries considered important and admirable.

Modern political rhetoric frequently exaggerates the extent of consensus among those establishing the American republic. Therefore I was also interested in looking at contemporary writings that discussed the political divisions of the time, particularly in 1796 and 1800 when Adams and Jefferson vied for the presidency. I am also concerned with contemporary perceptions of Jeffersonian politics given the frequency with which presidents on both sides of the modern political divide have claimed the inheritance of Jefferson's legacy. To this end, I looked at writings produced by both Federalists and Republicans in support of their respective presidential candidates, particularly in 1800, and considered some of the essays and orations produced in celebration of Jefferson's election, by Abraham Bishop and others.

Finally, I drew on the library's extensive newspaper collections, analysing briefly the (notably subdued) reporting of America's declaration of independence in 1776 before turning to consider the reception of the first three presidents' inaugural addresses. Given that much of my research analyses twentieth century presidential speeches and their reception, I was interested in drawing comparisons with the impact of the addresses of the first presidents. It was significant to note, for example, that great comfort was expressed by observers who perceived in the presidents' speeches a commitment to the values laid out in America's founding documents. The professed inheritance of these same values appears an almost obligatory component in the inaugural addresses of the twentieth century presidents with which I am concerned.

In addition to the rewards of the Library Company, my stay in Philadelphia included several other experiences of value to my research. A day spent in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania uncovered some important secondary literature previously unknown to me. Meanwhile, the manner in which the independence era sites in the city were celebrated and presented was of considerable interest. I benefited also from my participation in the first seminar of the new term held by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies. Assembling at the beautifully located David Library of the American Revolution, north of the city, I met a number of leading scholars and other graduate students working in the field, gaining much from their conversation and comments on my own research.

In all, it was an enormously valuable trip which I feel has advanced my research greatly, widening my knowledge of the field while allowing me to meet and talk with several scholars whose work is relevant to my own. This would not have been possible without the financial assistance awarded by BAAS, to whom I would like to express my sincere thanks.

Graeme Thomson (University of Glasgow)

# **Funding Reports**

# 'Popular Genres, American Genders'

On 15 September 2010, around 40 academics and postgraduates in the field of American Studies convened to explore the intersections of genre and gender in a one-day postgraduate conference hosted by the University of Manchester, entitled 'Popular Genres, American Genders: U.S. Popular Texts in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries.' The event sought to explore how American narrative formulas delimit, inform, and reconfigure the possibilities of gendered representations. In an academic field which is increasingly attentive to both the possibilities and problems bound up in the production and analysis of popular culture, it was felt that such a conference could offer a valuable forum in which postgraduate and early career researchers could discuss their work.

The conference's aim of bringing together diverse scholars from a range of disciplines was certainly fulfilled – among the speakers were scholars with backgrounds in American Studies, English Literature, Film Studies, Media Studies, Cultural Theory, and Creative Writing. Three sessions took place over the course of the day, supporting nine speakers in total. The panels – entitled 'Consuming Sexuality, Commodifying Masculinity'; 'Feminist Spaces: Inside and Outside Patriarchal Hegemony'; and 'Queer Performativity: Ethnicity, Excess, and the Body' – aimed to cover a diverse range of topics related to genre and gender. Topics included a comparison of American and British masculinities in werewolf fiction and film; an examination of black female protagonists produced by white male playwrights including Eugene O'Neill and Carl Van Vechten; and, a discussion of the relationship between third wave feminism and the Riot Grrl movement that originated in the Pacific Northwest. Alongside postgraduate researchers and staff from Manchester, the conference welcomed speakers from Lancaster, Salford, Gloucestershire and Exeter. The debates generated by the papers were lively and productive, with informed and eloquent questions and answers.

The conference concluded with a compelling keynote lecture, 'Detecting Agency: Private Eyes

and the Status Quo', by Dr Cynthia Hamilton, Head of English Studies at Liverpool Hope University. Dr Hamilton engaged the notion of formulas in popular fiction, looking closely at hardboiled detective fiction and how this genre offered intersections between myriad discourses of power, social criticism, victimisation and agency. Her talk specifically addressed the work of the contemporary American detective writer, Sara Parestsky, arguing that Parestsky extended the American hardboiled tradition to enable a feminist, more subversive, approach to detective fiction.

The organisers are very grateful to BAAS for its generous financial contribution towards the conference, which enabled assistance with travel expenses for speakers from outside of Manchester, and allowed the event to run without charging registration fees that are often prohibitive to postgraduate students with limited funds.

Jennie Chapman, Maysa Jaber & William Turner (The Organising Team)

# 'William James and the Transatlantic Conversation: Pragmatism, Pluralism & Philosophy of Religion'

# 23-25 September 2010, Rothermere American Institute & Mansfield College, Oxford

This international conference was a collaboration between the the Centre for Theology and Modern European Thought at the University of Oxford, the Centre for American Studies at the University of Leicester, and the Rothermere American Institute. The conference commemorated the centenary of the death of the American psychologist and philosopher William James in 1910, and also marked an important moment in the transatlantic exchange of ideas, when James delivered his Hibbert Lectures in 1908 at Manchester College, Oxford (now Harris Manchester College), published as A Pluralistic Universe in 1909. This lecture series built on James's more famous Gifford Lectures in Edinburgh, Varieties of Religious Experience, a few years earlier, and represented the clearest point of contact between American pragmatism and its reception in the UK. In his own time, James engaged in a number of international conversations in science, philosophy, religion, ethics and literature.

Autumn 2010 marked an appropriate point for an international gathering of scholars from a range of disciplines to assess James's work, to take stock of his multi-disciplinary reception across the twentieth century and around the globe, and to evaluate his legacy in the twenty-first century. The opening and closing keynotes were delivered by David Hollinger (University of California, Berkeley, and current President of the Organization of American Historians), 'William James, Ecumenical Protestants and the Dynamics of Secularisation', and David Lamberth (Harvard University), 'A Pluralistic Universe a Century Later: Rationality, Pluralism and Religion'. Other plenary papers were given by Richard King (Nottingham), Peter Kuryla (Belmont), Martin Halliwell (Leicester), Leslie Butler (Dartmouth), Joel Rasmussen (Oxford), Jaime Nubiola (Navarre) and Sami Philström (Helsinki). BAAS kindly sponsored a number of postgraduate delegate passes, and additional funding was very gratefully received from the United States Embassy, London and the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion. A reception on Thursday 23 September was hosted by Harris Manchester College in the room where James delivered his Hibbert Lectures, and where could be viewed correspondence and artefacts dating from 1908.

Martin Halliwell (Chair, British Association for American Studies)

### 'Congress to Campus' Sixth Form Conferences

#### November 2010, The British Library

BAAS granted £300 towards the costs of two oneday conferences for US Politics A-level students which took place at the British Library Conference Centre in the week following last year's US midterm elections. On stage all day were former Members of the US Congress, Judge David Minge (Democrat, Minnesota) and the Hon. Jim Kolbe (Republican, Arizona). Professors Philip Davies, Iwan Morgan and Robert McKeever, and Drs Andrew Moran and Ross English joined them for sessions discussing the mid-term elections, the presidency, the supreme court, the workings of congress, and the conduct of US foreign policy. Over 400 students and teachers attended the conferences, which covered topics featured in A-level syllabi, and allowed engagement with seasoned US political practitioners. Support from BAAS, as well as from the US Embassy, the Eccles Centre for American Studies and the US Association of Former Members of Congress helped to keep registration costs nominal, maximising access to the event.

Philip Davies (Director, Eccles Centre for American Studies)

# American Politics Group Colloquium

### 12 November 2010, US Embassy, London

The American Politics Group/BAAS annual colloquium was held on Friday 12 November 2010 at the US Embassy in London. The opening speaker was Bronwen Maddox, Chief Foreign Commentator of *The Times*, and recently appointed Editor of *Prospect Magazine*. Ms Maddox has established a remarkable reputation as a writer on international, economic and political affairs at *The Times* and the depth and range of her knowledge, as well as the unparalleled access she has to important sources were all displayed in a thoughtful discussion of the first two years of the Obama presidency, ranging across US domestic affairs and into the country's policy in Afghanistan.

The Q&A session for Bronwen showed that the audience this year was particularly interested in aspects of US foreign policy, and this was covered further by Professor John Dumbrell (Durham University) in his discussion of US foreign policy in the first period of the Obama presidency. The morning session closed with the presentation of the Richard E. Neustadt Prize for the Best Book of 2009 on US government and politics by a British-based author to Professor Iwan Morgan of the Institute for the Study of the Americas, for his volume *The Age of Deficits* (University of Kansas Press). The presentation was made by Sandy Kaiser, Minister Counsel in Public Affairs to the US Ambassador.

The meeting was held only ten days after the 2010 US mid-term elections, and in an hour-long live video link from Washington DC, Professor John White (Catholic University of America) presented his analysis of the results from the perspective of the shifting political demography of the USA, a pattern he thought spelled more difficulty for the Republican party than the recent results would suggest. The final session saw former Members of the US Congress Jim Kolbe (R-AZ) and David Minge (D-MN) on a panel chaired by Dr Tim Lynch (ISA) discussing with the audience points from the days presentations. After the official close of the event, the Congressmen and part of the audience (of about 100) continued the discussion in a nearby pub.

The welcome grant from BAAS towards this joint event helped underwrite the speaker's costs, and kept the student registration charge down to a nominal £5. The organisers would also like to acknowledge the support of the US Embassy, the Eccles Centre at the British Library and the US Association of Former Members of Congress.

Philip Davies (Director, Eccles Centre for American Studies)

### **SASA Annual Meeting**

### 5 February 2011, University of Stirling

The annual meeting of the Scottish Association for the Study of America (SASA) took place at the University of Stirling on 5 February 2011, and involved around thirty five participants with ten papers covering a host of subjects and disciplines. All of the panel papers were given by postgraduates on doctoral programmes in the UK, most of them from Scottish institutions, and there was a rich breadth of material covered - from the masculine iconography in *Mad Men* to the trade in textiles along the sixteenth-century Labrador coastline, to the demands of leadership on the nineteenthcentury Kentucky frontier. This year, rather than operating dual sessions, all the attendees shared the same room, which made for interesting thematic comparisons and a good participatory dynamic throughout. The quality of the papers was high, and demonstrated the continuing vibrancy of engagement with all areas of American Studies in

Scotland: these included consideration of the roots of American conservatism, the anthologising of American folk music, US foreign policy, religious and political authority in colonial society, and detailed examinations of the writings of and influences on Edgar Allen Poe and Tennessee Williams.

The keynote lecture was provided by Professor Geoff Plank, newly of the University of East Anglia, who has previously published on (among other penetrating works) the Jacobite Rising, Nova Scotia, and Scots Highlanders in early America, and who gave us a thoroughly enjoyable taster of his new research project exploring the cultural meaning and Atlantic parameters of the textile trade in the early modern era, with a particular focus on wool. It was also a great pleasure to welcome Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones (University of Edinburgh) as our new SASA Honorary President, and to award the SASA Prize for best postgraduate paper to Blair Smith (University of Dundee).

We are very grateful to the individuals and organisations who contributed to the event, and in particular, the generous support of the British Association for American Studies, the School of History & Politics at the University of Stirling, and Professor Sir C. Duncan Rice (University of Aberdeen). Their funding made it possible to make the event free for postgraduates to participate. In these times of 'austerity', when it is less feasible for students and scholars to engage as frequently with wider audiences, it is especially critical that we continue to provide constructive and supportive forums for the exchange of ideas and research.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to members of the SASA committee and to the conference administrator, Sharla Chittick, for their hard work in making the event a real success. We now look forward to Glasgow in 2012, but will be circulating some e-newsletters in the meantime, so if anyone has any information of interest to SASA, or would like to become a member (which is currently free), then please contact me at:

ben.marsh@stir.ac.uk.

Ben Marsh (Chair, Scottish Association for the Study of America)

# **Reports from Eccles Centre Fellows**

# Malcolm Gaskill (University of East Anglia)

I am extremely grateful to the BAAS and the Eccles Centre for awarding me a Visiting Fellowship in North American Studies. I am a social and cultural historian of early modern England rather than an Americanist, so I am especially honoured and gratified that the Association saw the merits of my research project and put its trust in me to spend its money wisely. My month's research at the British Library was highly successful, and could not have been carried out so extensively, with such attention to the detail of sources, without this award.

My project concerns English identity, communication and culture, seen entirely from the English perspective, as shielded from hindsight as it's possible to achieve. Many colonial historians have used English archival sources, but frequently these serve only to provide back-story to what happened in America. My work seeks to extend the history of English people, with particular emphasis on the emotional preparations, challenges and transformations that migration to the New World entailed. Courage looms large here, but so does desire, rapture, disappointment, shame, resentment, homesickness, grief, rage, and so on. I am especially interested in the way that colonists thought about England, and how their sense of being English was affected by the strangeness of their self-imposed exile; conversely, I'm also interested in what America meant to English people, most of whom had no first-hand knowledge of settling abroad. This is a dimension overlooked by most historians of early modern England.

The research was conducted exclusively on manuscript sources relating to the English colonies in seventeenth-century North America, with some material dating back to the 1570s. I arrived with several pages of references to sources as diverse as private letters, commonplace books, ships' logs, diplomatic reports, travel memoirs, and land deeds. I completed everything, and took almost 130 pages of closely written notes – a huge haul

of valuable evidence for the project. One of the highlights was a substantial naval journal from the 1680s which records the story of an official inspector's conflict with the crew and captain of a salvage vessel, and then subsequently their conflict with magistrates and constables in Boston. The case illustrates a number of subtle and elusive points about the growing assertion of royal authority over New England, and the violent passions which allegiance and independence aroused. Clearly, these Bostonians are not yet ready to rebel, but they are no longer the Englishmen that Charles II would have them be.

This, and case-studies like it, will feature prominently in my book, provisionally titled Out of this World: English Adventures in America, 1607-92, to be published by Basic Books, 2012-13. (Oxford University Press are interested in publishing in the UK). The word 'adventure' has been chosen partly for its modern meaning, but also its seventeenth-century meaning of 'enterprise'. This will be a study of how experience - often experience of a nightmarishly brutal type - affects mentalities, from the level of individual psychology right up to government policy. I don't want this book to be seen as a comprehensive history of the English colonies, which, in this format, would be an impossible task. Rather, it is a study of English people's feelings about themselves, their fellow English, native Americans, and generally about the Atlantic world and their place within it, located in a key century of political restructuring and commercial expansion.

# Devin Zuber (University of Osnabrück)

My approximately five weeks of research and writing at the British Library (from 27 August to 25 September) enabled significant progress on the two major projects that had brought me there.

Firstly, I was able to make major headway into the final sections of my monograph manuscript, Hieroglyphics of Nature: Swedenborg and the American Environmental Imagination, which examines the ways that Emanuel Swedenborg's philosophy and theosophy affected American Romantic conceptualisations of natural space. I have planned for this work to end with a sustained attention to John Muir and the emergence of a

viable preservationist movement at the end of the nineteenth century.

I spent the first two weeks of the fellowship delving into a circle of San Francisco-based artists and writers around Muir to better understand the ways that Swedenborg's ideas constituted a conversation about nature aesthetics, wilderness, and American religion. I had known in advance that Muir was close to Joseph Worcester, a Swedenborgian minister, architect, and philosopher, and William Keith, a landscape painter who avidly read Swedenborg and translated his ideas into aesthetic principles, but I was unsure if there was any viable connection between their writing and painting and Muir's own work. Due in large part to the library's holding of materials related to Keith, including early exhibition catalogues of Keith's work that are simply unavailable in Germany, these contexts came into much clearer focus. I was genuinely surprised to discover a consistent and sustained interest in Swedenborg on Muir's part, shaped not only by his friendships with Keith and Worcester, but also by his friendship with Ralph Waldo Emerson, who sent Keith a Swedenborgian text by Sampson Reed after their historic meeting.

Now that this final chapter has a convincing argument to make, I can proceed with finalising my manuscript. I am pleased to share that *Hieroglyphics of Nature* has raised preliminary interest from Cambridge University Press in New York, and I will be sending off a formal book proposal to them within the next two months. The Eccles fellowship has enabled my research to be denser and broader in scope, reflecting the breadth of materials I had access to, and I am sure that this will only strengthen my manuscript's potential when it comes under the initial review.

The remainder of my time in London was spent researching a forthcoming annotated scholarly edition of letters—never before published—by the nineteenth-century polymath James John Garth Wilkinson that I am in the process of finalising. Although the British Library does not own any correspondence by Wilkinson (which is to be largely found at Harvard University's Houghton Library and at the London Swedenborg Society), the access to a number of British and American nineteenth century periodicals was essential for my research on the contexts and background for Wilkinson and his writing. His letters, I argue, display an

important chapter in a history of transatlantic ideas between England and American Transcendentalism, especially in the letters Wilkinson (who was London-based) sent to Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry James, Sr. Wilkinson was most notably the first person to publish a letterpress edition of William Blake's Songs of Innocence, in 1839, a little volume that led to Blake being critically discussed in American Transcendentalist circles forty years before Alexander Gilchrist's 1863 biography of Blake led to the so-called 'Blake revival' in England. I was delighted to discover Wilkinson's manuscript for his important introduction to Blake's *Songs* – one of the first pieces of literary criticism to claim Blake as a great lyrical poet on par with Wordsworth (and not merely an eccentric talented madman) tucked inside the British Library's published copy of Wilkinson's Songs. Wilkinson first attracted the attention of James Sr. and Emerson through a number of articles he wrote for nineteenth century periodicals, especially in the Monthly Magazine. I was finally able to track down all of these essays (including a critical one on Coleridge's annotations to Swedenborg), which would have been simply impossible in Germany where most of these magazines are rarely available (if it all). I was also able to finally access an important interview and essay on Wilkinson by John Gray (most famous as the model for Oscar Wilde's Dorian Gray) that appeared in the 1893 Symbolist journal The Dial. The interview opened up a new perspective on the way Wilkinson's experimentation with automatic writing participated in a larger conversation about creativity and emerging conceptualisations of the  $subconscious. \ The \ Selected \ Letters \ of \ James \ John$ Garth Wilkinson is under contract to be published in 2012 by the Swedenborg Foundation (West Chester, PA), and I will be duly acknowledging my residency at the British Library courtesy of the Eccles Fellowship as an essential part of the book's completion.

Thus, my experience as an Eccles Fellow was an extremely productive and fruitful one, and I am very grateful to the Eccles Centre and the British Association of American Studies for making my extended research stay possible. I will strongly encourage my Americanist colleagues here in Germany—especially those who, like me, have research interests that involve rarer nineteenth century periodicals that are difficult to come by on the continent—to seriously consider applying for the grant.

# **Eccles Centre Postgraduate Award Reports**

# Tim Foster (University of Nottingham)

My doctoral research examines the ways in which contemporary American fiction represents an emergent post-suburban environment. One of the fundamental aims of the project is to correct what I see as an unhelpful adherence on the part of literary critics to a cultural conception of the suburbs that is no longer relevant given the emergence of new landscapes such as Edge Cities and Exurbs. To this end, it was invaluable to me to be able to spend July and parts of early Autumn 2010 at the British Library on an Eccles Centre Postgraduate Fellowship.

I spent the time researching a chapter of my thesis on Richard Ford's Frank Bascombe trilogy of novels. My home university library at Nottingham doesn't stock the majority of the material on Ford's oeuvre and so, as well as meaning that I didn't have to be reliant on the inter-library loan system, the Eccles Centre Fellowship allowed me to order everything to one reading room at the British Library, making the process of research far simpler. I also spent some time at the Library's reading rooms at Colindale, north London, where I had access to a major collection of overseas and British newspapers. In my experience, working on contemporary fiction can be problematic in the sense that there is often a paucity of useful secondary sources; although this isn't quite the case with regard to Ford, the fact is that a lot of the material on his work is based on interviews Ford himself has given, and so having recourse to a range of newspaper, magazine and periodical reviews allowed me to widen my critical base further. It was also of great benefit to have funds that allowed me to photocopy material that I could then annotate away from the library; these resources will also be of considerable help to me when I re-draft the chapter.

I am most grateful to Professor Philip Davies and the staff at the Eccles Centre for their administrative help, as well as to BAAS for honouring me with this fellowship. I would wholeheartedly recommend applying for an Eccles Centre Postgraduate Award: the financial assistance offers a rare opportunity to work for an extended period in one of the most inspiring and resource-rich environments any postgraduate could wish for.

Ariane Knüsel (University of Zurich)

I was delighted when I found out that I would receive the Eccles Centre European Postgraduate Award. As previously expressed in my application for the award, I am working on an article about the way missionaries and business organisations were affected by events in China in the interwar years and how they influenced (mainstream) newspaper and magazine reports about the Far East.

I went to London in January 2010 to look at various newspapers and magazines in the British Library's Newspaper Archive in Colindale and to consult primary and secondary literature at the British Library at King's Cross. I usually spent mornings and afternoons in Colindale, and went to the British Library at King's Cross where I studied books and reference works on the presence of American missionaries and business organisations in China until it closed.

I looked at various regular newspapers, of which the *Atlanta Constitution*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and the *Times-Picayune* were the most fruitful with regard to reports about China. I also analysed all the American commercial publications from the interwar years that were held at Colindale. The following journals were particularly rewarding: *Business Week*, *Commerce and Finance*, *The Annalist*, *The Commercial and Financial Chronicle*. I also examined various religious journals, and American publications on the Far East, including the *China Weekly Review* and the *Far Eastern Review*.

I am, at the moment, still in the writing stage. The evaluation of my notes and copies of articles takes a lot of time because the articles contain a wealth of information about the views of American missionaries and businessmen on the situation in China, as well as about the way Japanese expansion in China affected their presence in China. Much of this has not yet been covered by scholarly publications. I am particularly thrilled

that my research has shown, even more than I had hoped, that missionaries and businessmen portrayed the situation in the Far East in completely opposite ways. I am planning to have the article finished in the next few months so that I can submit it to a journal.

# **Fellowship Opportunities**

# The Fulbright 2011 US Summer Institutes

Applications are now open for the 2011 Fulbright American Studies Summer Institute. The American Studies Summer Institute is a unique 4-week programme, which has been devised by the US Embassy in London in collaboration with New York University. It aims to enrich knowledge of the United States among the next generation of American Studies professionals in the UK, particularly those who do not have extensive experience of the US first-hand.

#### **Eligibility requirements:**

Applicants must: be a UK citizen (resident anywhere); be able to participate in the programme in its entirety; possess a first degree in American Studies or a related subject (e.g. International Studies and Relations, American Culture, Literature, Film, History) from a UK university; be actively studying, teaching or researching in the field of American Studies at the moment; have been based in the UK for at least five years and should intend to undertake a career in the UK after completing the institute.

This programme is intended for final year PhD candidates, recent recipients of their doctorate or those who have recently entered teaching at the university level in the field of American Studies. This can include American literature, history, politics, culture, etc.

The Summer Institute will cover all participant costs, including: round-trip airfare from the UK to the US; tuition and fees at the host university; accommodation and meals; a small daily allowance; health and accident insurance; a small book allowance; and visa processing.

Full application details are available at: www.fulbright.co.uk/fulbright-awards/for-uk-citizens/summer-institutes/american-studies-summer-institute. The deadline for applications is 5:00 pm, Thursday 21 April 2011. For further information, please contact the Special Programmes Coordinator, Laura McCaffrey (laura@fulbright.co.uk, +44 (0)207 498 4017).

# Conference and Seminar Announcements

The Sixteenth Annual Douglas W Bryant Lecture

'Why Men Hate to Talk about Relationships: the US, the UK, and the Atlantic Alliance'

### by Philip Bobbitt

### 19.00 Tuesday 29 March 2011, British Library Conference Centre, London

Philip Bobbitt served as Associate Counsel to President Carter, Counselor on International Law at President Bush's State Department, and Senior Director for Strategic Planning at President Clinton's National Security Council, but he has been familiar with the White House since he visited and stayed there with his uncle, Lyndon Johnson. As well as serving in senior US government positions, Professor Bobbitt has written books and articles on global security and constitutional law which have won him international acclaim. He has taught at Nuffield College, Oxford, Kings College London, and held named chairs at the University of Texas and Harvard. He remains Senior Fellow at the Robert S Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas and is currently the Herbert Wechsler Professor of Jurisprudence, and Director of the Center for National Security at Columbia University, New York.

The Lecture will be preceded by a reception at 18.15

# rsvp **eccles-centre@bl.uk** or T +44 (0)20 7412 7757

See www.bl.uk/ecclescentre for details of other events in our 2011 programme

The Futures of American Studies Institute: 'State(s) of American Studies'

20-26 June 2011, Dartmouth College, Hanover NH, USA

# **Call for Applications**

#### **About the Institute**

The fifteenth year of the Institute is the second of a four-year focus on 'State(s) of American Studies.' The term 'state(s)' in the title is intended to refer at once to the 'state' as an object of analysis, to the state as an imagined addressee and interlocutor for Americanist scholarship, as well as to the reconfigured state(s) of the fields and areas of inquiry in American Studies both inside and outside the United States.

The Institute is divided into plenary sessions that feature current work from Institute faculty and research seminars in which all participants present and discuss their own works-in-progress. Speakers in the plenary sessions will examine the relation between emergent and residual practices in the field of American Studies from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives. The Institute welcomes participants who are involved in a range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields and who are interested in current critical debates in American Studies.

The Institute was designed to provide a shared space for critical inquiry that brings the participants' works-in-progress to the attention of a network of influential scholars. Over the past ten years, plenary speakers have recommended participants' work to the leading journals and university presses within the field of American Studies, and have provided participants with recommendations and support in an increasingly competitive job market.

#### **Institute Faculty**

Donald E. Pease (Dartmouth College – Director), Aimee Bahng (Dartmouth College), Rebecca Biron (Dartmouth College), Barrymore Anthony Bogues (Brown University), Hamilton Carroll (University of Leeds), Russ Castronovo (University of Wisconsin), Eric Cheyfitz (Cornell University), Tim Dean (State University of New York at Buffalo), Soyica Diggs Colbert (Dartmouth College), Brian Edwards (Northwestern University), Jonathan Elmer (University of Indiana), Danuta Fjellestad (Uppsala University), Jonathan Flatley (Wayne State University), Nancy Fraser (New School), Cristina Giorcelli (University of Rome III), Gordon Hutner (University of Illinois at Urbana), Donatella Izzo (University of Naples), Cindi Katz (City University of New York), Liam Kennedy (University College, Dublin), Kun Jong Lee (University of Korea), Eng-Beng Lim (Brown University), Walter Benn Michaels (University of Illinois at Chicago Circle), Alan Nadel (University of Kentucky), Daniel T. O'Hara (Temple University), Dylan Rodriguez (University of California at Riverside), John Carlos Rowe (University of Southern California), Ramon Soto Crespo (State University of New York at Buffalo), Jordan Stein (University of Colorado at Boulder), Robyn Wiegman (Duke University)

### **Application Details**

The fee for the Institute (covering registration, housing, and seminars) is \$695.00. The fee to attend only the Institute plenary sessions is \$500. Applications for the 2011 Institute will be accepted until all slots have been filled, but applications received by 31 May 2011 will be granted priority. Applicants should send a brief description of their own projects (no more than 1 page) along with a current CV, a writing sample (10-15 pages) and a \$10 application fee (please make checks payable to 'Dartmouth College'). Acceptances will be sent via email, so please make sure to include your email address in your CV.

Applications should be mailed to: Alexander Corey The Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, 116 Wentworth Hall, Hanover, NH 03755, USA. For further information, please visit www.dartmouth.edu/~futures, and contact Alexander Corey (Futures.of.American. Studies.Institute@Dartmouth.edu).

## **New Members**

**Patrick Andelic** is a first year DPhil student at the University of Oxford, where he previously completed his MSt in U.S. History. His research concerns the development of liberalism within the Democratic Party during the 1970s, with a particular focus on the generation that entered Congress in the aftermath of Watergate. He holds an MA in History from the University of Edinburgh.

Jenny Barrett is the Programme Leader in Film Studies at Edge Hill University, in North West England. Her research includes American Civil War cinema, Hollywood genres, and gender and race representations. Her book, Shooting the Civil War: Cinema, History & American National Identity is available from I.B. Tauris.

Nigel Bartlett is Head of Economics at Sutton Grammar School for Boys. He spent ten years as a Civil Servant in Whitehall, and the last twelve as a sixth-form teacher. Presently he teaches the American government option on the A-level Government and Politics course and, although his main subject is economics, whilst at university he spent two summers on the Camp America program and has always been interested in anything connected with US politics and government.

Matthew Bentley is a PhD candidate in American Studies at the University of East Anglia. His research interests include Native American history, the American West, the history of manhood, and the history of sport. His PhD thesis focuses on manhood at the Carlisle Indian School.

Katherine Bunning is a Research Associate in the School of Museum Studies at the University of Leicester. She holds a BA in American Studies (Hull), an MA in Museum Studies (Leicester), and her research focuses on areas that link Museum Studies and American Studies, such as the representation of cultures in museums. Katherine is keen to embark on a PhD about representations of ethnicity in American urban museums in the near future.

**Gemma Evans** is a first-year PhD student at the University of Nottingham whose research focuses on Protestant African American churches and the American Civil Rights Movement between 1955 and 1965. Gemma is particularly interested in the involvement of the Baptist and Methodist denominations in both the national movement and in local nonviolent resistance movements in Birmingham and Nashville.

Hannah Farmer is completing a PhD in History at the University of Southampton looking at the way Jewish women in Chicago used Philanthropy, and the debates surrounding the topic, to negotiate and discuss issues of identity in the late nineteenth century. Hannah is interested in urban culture in the Progressive Era, particularly the development of masculine and feminine mores in this period.

**Emma Folwell** is a PhD student at Leicester University, studying Massive Resistance, New Conservatism and Community Action Programs in 1960s Mississippi.

Francesca de Lucia holds a Master's degree from the University of Geneva, a diploma in American Studies from Smith college, and a doctorate from the University of Oxford for a thesis entitled Italian American Cultural Fictions: From Diaspora to Globalization. Francesca was awarded the Geno Baroni Prize for the best historical essay of 2008 for The Impact of Fascism and the Second World War on Italian American Communities (published in *Italian Americana*). Francesca has published four other papers on aspects of Italian American culture and literature, and intends to expand her reflection on ethnic literature, both in relation to Italian Americans and to other groups. She is also interested in the perception of Europe and Japan in the American literature of the Second World War.

**David Lynch** is a retired circuit judge of fifteen years, and a barrister of twenty two years. He holds an LLB from London (1965) and a recent MRes from Liverpool John Moores (2010), where he completed a dissertation entitled *Cherokee Removal Discourse in Jacksonian America*. He intends to research a PhD in the psychology of Supreme Court decision-making, with particular reference to early nineteenth-century Cherokee cases.

**Jarod Roll** is a lecturer in American History at the University of Sussex and Director of the Marcus Cunliffe Centre for the Study of the American South.

Ruth Mackay holds a BA in English Literature and an MA in American Literature & Culture from the University of Leeds, where she is a Postgraduate Teaching Assistant engaged in her third year of doctoral research. Ruth's thesis is directed at representations of verticality in American literary and cultural texts from 1900 to the present day. She has presented papers relating to verticality in Toni Morrison's *Sula*, and the documentary drama film *Man on Wire*.

**Kate McCormack** is a first-year American Studies student at the University of East Anglia particularly looking forward to studying modules in American Literature.

**Rory McGinley** is currently mid-way through the American studies programme at the University of Glasgow. His research focuses on the work of Richard Yates, with specific attention to the idea of gender anxiety and dislocation in his short stories.

HollyGale Millette is a doctoral candidate approaching viva stage. Her research interests include Geographies and Performances of Identity, Trans-Atlantic formations, and Trans Nationalism of the Nineteenth Century and Fin de Siecle.

**Geoffrey Plank** is Professor of American Studies at the University of East Anglia. He is the author of *Rebellion and Savagery: The Jacobite Rising of 1745 and the British Empire* (Philadelphia, 2006), and *An Unsettled Conquest: The British Campaign Against the Peoples of Acadia* (Philadelphia, 2001). His recent work examines the Quaker abolitionist John Woolman.

Edward Ragg is a poet, author of Wallace Stevens and the Aesthetics of Abstraction (CUP, 2010), and co-editor, with Bart Eeckhout, of Wallace Stevens across the Atlantic (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008). He is an editorial board member of The Wallace Stevens Journal and an Associate Professor at Tsinghua University, Beijing.

**Nigel Rodenhurst** is reading a PhD on Jewish American literature. He holds a first class honours degree and an MPhil on Paul Auster and Don Delillo (both from Lampeter), and has published reviews in the *JAS*, *The Times Higher* and the *TLS*.

Anna Stenning is working towards a PhD entitled A Comparative Ecocritical Study of the Poetry of Edward Thomas and Robert Frost at the University of Worcester. The project considers these poets' work within the context of 'ecopoetry', and examines their critical reception in the US and the UK with a particular emphasis on ecocriticism.

**Peter Swirski** is a researcher at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. He has published ten books, including the bestselling *From Lowbrow to Nobrow* (2005) and *Ars Americana*, *Ars Politica* (2010).

Sarah Trott is an early-stage academic at Swansea University and a recent recipient of a 2010 US-UK Fulbright Commission Award at New York University. Grounded in the field of American Studies, her research interests lie in American cultural history, war, and the application of psychological and historical frameworks to American literature and culture. Her doctoral research examined the psychological influence of post-traumatic stress disorder upon literature, focusing specifically upon the life and work of the American hard-boiled author Raymond Chandler. Sarah has conducted research at the University of California Los Angeles, the Bodleian Library Oxford, and the Canadian Archives in Ottawa, Canada. She has taught for both the American Studies and War and Society degree schemes as well as for the Department of Adult Continuing Education at Swansea University.

Bart Verhoeven completed an undergraduate degree in English and Italian literature at the University of Antwerp, before deciding to channel his interests in American political and intellectual history into a postgraduate MA degree in American Studies at the same institution. Bart is currently engaged in a PhD at the University of Nottingham focusing on the postwar Radical Right, and especially on the John Birch Society from its birth in 1958 to roughly 1980.

# **Members' News**

Alan Rice, Reader in American Studies at the University of Central Lancashire, launched his new book *Creating Memorials, Building Identities:*The Politics of Memory in the Black Atlantic (Liverpool University Press) at the Lancaster Maritime Museum in November 2010. The audience of around 60 people listened to Professor George McKay (University of Salford) play in a jazz bass duo, and heard Northern art prize nominee Lubaina Himid (University of Central Lancashire) introduce the book. It can be purchased directly from Liverpool University Press or through any good bookshop. Alan is available to do fully illustrated papers on any chapters in the book and can be contacted at arice@uclan.ac.uk.

## **Members' Publications**

Clive Bush, Emeritus Professor of American Studies at King's College London, reports two recent publications.

Holding the Line: Selected Essays in American Literature and Culture (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2009) comprises a selection of interdisciplinary essays in American literature and culture written over some forty years.

The Century's Midnight: Dissenting European and American Writers in the Era of the Second World War (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2010) explores the literary and political relationships between a number of ideologically sophisticated American and European writers during a mid-twentieth century dominated by the Second World War.

# **BAAS Membership of Committees**

# (including co-opted members and invited observers)

#### **Executive Committee**

elected:

Professor Martin Halliwell (Chair, first elected 2010, term ends 2013)

mrh17@leicester.ac.uk

Dr. Theresa Saxon (Treasurer, first elected 2008, term ends 2012)

tsaxon@uclan.ac.uk

Dr. Catherine Morley (Secretary, first elected 2007, term ends 2011)

catherine.morley@leicester.ac.uk

Professor Ian Bell (first elected 2007, term ends 2013)\*

i.f.a.bell@ams.keele.ac.uk

Dr. Michael Collins (first elected 2010, term ends 2012) $^\dagger$ 

aaxmc1@nottingham.ac.uk

Dr. John Fagg (first elected 2009, term ends 2012)

john.fagg@nottingham.ac.uk

Professor Will Kaufman (Vice Chair, first elected 2005, term ends 2011)\*

wkaufman@uclan.ac.uk

Dr. George Lewis (first elected 2007, term ends 2013)\*

gdgl1@le.ac.uk

Dr. Robert Mason (first elected 2008, term ends 2011)

 ${\bf robert.mason@ed.ac.uk}$ 

Professor Iwan Morgan (first elected 2009, term ends 2012)

iwan.morgan@sas.ac.uk

Dr. Thomas Ruys Smith (first elected 2010, term ends 2013)

thomas.smith@uea.ac.uk

Dr. Mark Whalan (first elected 2008, term ends 2011)

m.whalan@exeter.ac.uk

p/grad Ms. Zalfa Feghali (first elected 2010, term ends 2012)\*

aaxzf@nottingham.ac.uk

ex officio:

Professor Susan Castillo (Editor, Journal of American Studies)

susan.castillo@kcl.ac.uk

Professor Dick Ellis (Chair, Libraries & Resources subcommittee; term ends 2012)

r.j.ellis@bham.ac.uk

Professor Scott Lucas (Associate Editor, Journal of American Studies)

w.s.lucas@bham.ac.uk

co-opted:

Mr. Chris Bates, Schools Liaison cjab@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

Dr. Ian Scott (Manchester Conference Organiser, 2012)

ian.s.scott@manchester.ac.uk

### **Development subcommittee**

Professor Will Kaufman (Chair) wkaufman@uclan.ac.uk

Mr. Chris Bates (co-opted)
cjab@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

Dr. John Fagg

john.fagg@nottingham.ac.uk

Professor Iwan Morgan iwan.morgan@sas.ac.uk

Ms. Zalfa Feghali (postgraduate representative)

aaxzf@nottingham.ac.uk

Professor Philip Davies (EAAS rep) **philip.davies@bl.ac.uk** 

Professor Dick Ellis (BLARs) r.j.ellis@bham.ac.uk

Dr Bella Adams (ASRC, invited guest)

b.adams@ljmu.ac.uk

#### **Awards subcommittee**

Professor Ian Bell (Chair)
i.f.a.bell@ams.keele.ac.uk

Dr. Robert Mason

robert.mason@ed.ac.uk

Dr. Catherine Morley

catherine.morley@leicester.ac.uk

#### **Publications subcommittee**

Dr. Mark Whalan (Chair) m.whalan@exeter.ac.uk

Dr. Michael Collins

aaxmc1@nottingham.ac.uk

Professor Martin Halliwell mrh17@leicester.ac.uk

Professor Susan Castillo (ex-officio, Editor, Journal of American Studies) susan.castillo@kcl.ac.uk

Ms. Carina Spaulding (Editor, US Studies Online)

 ${\bf carina.spaulding@postgrad.}$ 

manchester.ac.uk

Mr. Kaleem Ashraf (Editor, American

Studies In Britain)

k.ashraf@sheffield.ac.uk

Professor Scott Lucas (Associate Editor, Journal of American Studies) w.s.lucas@bham.ac.uk

Professor Ken Morgan (Editor of BRRAM) kenneth.morgan@brunel.ac.uk Professor Simon Newman (Editor, BAAS paperbacks)

spn@arts.gla.ac.uk

Ms. Carol Smith (Editor, BAAS paperbacks)

carol.smith@winchester.ac.uk

#### **Conference subcommittee**

Dr. George Lewis (Chair)

gdgl1@le.ac.uk

Dr. Thomas Ruys-Smith **thomas.smith@uea.ac.uk** 

Dr. Theresa Saxon (UCLAN Conference

Organiser, 2011)

tsaxon@uclan.ac.uk

 ${\bf Dr.\ Ian\ Scott\ (Manchester\ Conference}$ 

Organiser, 2012)

ian.s.scott@manchester.ac.uk

# **BLARs – Libraries and Resources** subcommittee

Professor Dick Ellis (Chair, term ends 2012) r.j.ellis@bham.ac.uk

Mrs Jayne Kelly (Secretary) jeh44@cam.ac.uk

Dr. Bella Adams

b.adams@ljmu.ac.uk

Dr. George Conyne

g.r.conyne@kent.ac.uk

Professor Philip Davies philip.davies@bl.ac.uk

Dr. Jo Gill

j.r.gill@exeter.ac.uk

Ms. Anna Girvan

Ms. Rose Goodier

rose.goodier@manchester.ac.uk

Dr. Kevin Halliwell k.halliwell@nls.uk

Ms. Jean Petrovic **jean.petrovic@bl.uk** 

Dr. Theresa Saxon tsaxon@uclan.ac.uk

Dr. Matthew Shaw (Editor, Resources in American Studies) matthew.shaw@bl.uk

Mr. Donald Tait

### **BAAS** representative to EAAS

Professor Philip Davies (terms ends 2012)\* **philip.davies@bl.uk** 

- \* Indicates this person not eligible for re-election to this position.
- <sup>†</sup> Indicates that the Committee member is fulfilling an unexpired position due to resignations from the Committee.

All co-optations must be reviewed annually.

# **BAAS Chairs**

Frank Thistlethwaite 1955-59

Herbert Nicholas 1959-62

Marcus Cunliffe 1962-65

Esmond Wright 1965-68

Maldwyn Jones 1968-71

George (Sam) Shepperson 1971-74

Harry Allen 1974-77

Peter Parish 1977-80

Dennis Welland 1980-83

Charlotte Erickson 1983-86

Howard Temperley 1986-89

**Bob Burchell** 1989–92

Richard King 1992-95

Judie Newman 1995-98

Philip Davies 1998-2004

Simon Newman 2004-2007

Heidi Macpherson 2007-2010

Martin Halliwell 2010-

# Notice of the BAAS AGM 2011

## 16.00-17.30, Friday 15 April 2010, University of Central Lancashire

# Agenda:

- 1. Elections: Secretary, 3 committee members, any other offices that fall vacant before the AGM
- 2. Treasurer's report
- 3. Chair's report
- 4. Report of the Conference Sub-Committee, and Annual Conferences 2010-2012
- 5. Report of the Publications Sub-Committee
- 6. Report of the Development Sub-Committee
- 7. Report of the Awards Sub-Committee
- 8. Report of the Libraries and Resources Sub-Committee
- 9. Report of the Representative to EAAS
- 10. Any other business

At the 2011 AGM, elections will be held for three positions on the Committee (three year terms), for the Secretary of the Association (three year term), and for any other offices that fall vacant before the AGM. Current incumbents of these positions (apart from the PG rep) may stand for re-election if not disbarred by the Constitution's limits on length of continuous service in Committee posts.

Elections can only take place if the meeting is quorate; please make every effort to attend.

The procedure for nominations is as follows:
Nominations should reach the current Secretary,
Catherine Morley, by 12.00 noon on Friday 15 April
2010. Nominations should be on the appropriate
written form, signed by a proposer, seconder,
and the candidate, who should state willingness
to serve if elected. The institutional affiliations
of the candidate, proposer and seconder should
be included. All candidates for office will be
asked to provide a brief statement outlining their
educational backgrounds, areas of teaching and/
or research interests and their vision of the role of

BAAS in the upcoming years. These need to be to the Secretary at the time of nomination so that they can be posted in a prominent location and available for the membership to read before the AGM. Those standing for election are expected to attend the AGM.

Dr Catherine Morley BAAS Secretary Centre for American Studies University of Leicester University Road Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel. 0116 2231068

catherine.morley@baas.ac.uk

# **Secretary of BAAS - Nomination Form**

I should like to propose	
for the above.	
Proposer:	
Name:	
Institution:	
Signature:	. Date:
I should like to second the above nomination.	
Seconder:	
Name:	
Institution:	
Signature:	. Date:
I confirm that I am willing to stand for election to the above.	
Candidate:	
Name:	
Department/Programme:	
Institution:	
Signature:	. Date:

Nominations must reach the Secretary, Catherine Morley, by noon on Friday 15 April 2011.

# **BAAS Executive Committee - Nomination Form**

I should like to propose
Proposer:
Name:
Institution:
Signature: Date:
I should like to second the above nomination.
Seconder:
Name:
Institution:
Signature: Date:
I confirm that I am willing to stand for election to the above.  Candidate:
Name:
Department/Programme:
Institution:
Signature:

Nominations must reach the Secretary, Catherine Morley, by noon on Friday 15 April 2011.

Candidate's Name:	•••••
Brief statement outlining educational backgrounds, areas of teaching and/or research interests and vision of the role of BAAS in the upcoming years.	