

Volume **45**

Number **2**

May **2011**

Journal of  
**American**  
**Studies**

CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

## Editorial Board

**Scott Lucas** (Editor)  
University of Birmingham

**Celeste-Marie Bernier** (Associate Editor)  
University of Nottingham

**Bevan Sewell** (Associate Editor)  
University of Nottingham

**Mike Dunn** (Editorial Assistant)  
University of Nottingham

**Janet Beer**  
Oxford Brookes University

**Ian Bell**  
Keele University

**Richard Crockett**  
University of East Anglia

**Susan Currell**  
University of Sussex

**Jane Dailey**  
University of Chicago

**Wai Chee Dimock**  
Yale University

**Shelley Fisher Fishkin**  
Stanford University

**Martin Halliwell**  
University of Leicester

**Paul Giles**  
University of Sydney

**Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones**  
University of Edinburgh

**Heidi Macpherson**  
De Montfort University

**Catherine Morley**  
Oxford Brookes University

**Judie Newman**  
University of Nottingham

**Jacques Pothier**  
University of Versailles

**Simon Newman**  
University of Glasgow

**Giles Scott-Smith**  
Roosevelt Study Center/  
Roosevelt Academy

**David Seed**  
University of Liverpool

**Carol Smith**  
University of Winchester

**Theresa Saxon**  
University of Central Lancashire

**Marjorie Spruill**  
University of South Carolina

**Brian Ward**  
University of Manchester

# Journal of American Studies

## Subscriptions

*Journal of American Studies* is published four times a year in February, May, August and November. The subscription price (excluding VAT), which includes postage, of Volume 45, 2011, is £213 (USA, Canada and Mexico US \$356), for institutions print and electronic, institutions electronic only £191/\$332; individual rates are available on application to the publisher. Single parts are available at £56 net (USA, Canada and Mexico \$98) each. Orders, which must be accompanied by payment, may be sent to a bookseller, subscription agent or to the publishers: Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8RU or in the USA, Canada and Mexico to Cambridge University Press, The Journals Fulfillment Department, 100 Brook Hill Drive, West Nyack, New York 10994-2133. EU subscribers (outside the UK) who are not registered for VAT should add VAT at their country's rate. VAT registered subscribers should provide their VAT registration number. Japanese prices for institutions are available from Kinokuniya Company Ltd, P.O. Box 55, Chitose, Tokyo 156, Japan. Prices include delivery by air. Copies of the Journal for subscribers in the USA, Canada and Mexico are sent by air to New York to arrive with minimum delay.

## Copying

This journal is registered with the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923. Organizations in the USA who are also registered with CCC may therefore copy material (beyond the limits permitted by sections 107 and 108 of US Copyright law) subject to payment to CCC of the per copy fee of \$12.00.

This consent does not extend to multiple copying for promotional or commercial purposes. Code 0021-8758/2011/BAAS-0001 \$12.00. ISI Tear Sheet Service, 3501 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, USA is authorized to supply single copies of separate articles for private use only.

Organizations authorized by the Copyright Licensing Agency may also copy material subject to the usual conditions. *For all other use*, permission should be sought from Cambridge or the American Branch of Cambridge University Press.

Claims for missing issues will be considered only if made immediately upon receipt of the subsequent issue.

## Internet access

This journal is included in the Cambridge Journals Online service which can be found at <http://journals.cambridge.org>. For further information on other Press titles access <http://www.cambridge.org>

## Book Reviews

Editorial correspondence relating to book reviews should be sent to the *Journal of American Studies*, School of American and Canadian Studies, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD, UK, [jas@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:jas@nottingham.ac.uk).

The British Association for American Studies (BAAS) was founded in 1955 to promote the study of the United States within the United Kingdom. Members of BAAS may subscribe to *Journal of American Studies* at a reduced rate. For more information visit [www.baas.ac.uk](http://www.baas.ac.uk).

# Contents

Mission Statement 211

## Articles

Absent Bodies: The AIDS Memorial Quilt as Social Melancholia 213

STEVEN JAMES GAMBARDELLA

“SAMO© as an Escape Clause”: Jean-Michel Basquiat’s  
Engagement with a Commodified American Africanism 227

LAURIE A. RODRIGUES

Inventing the Egghead: The Paradoxes of Brainpower in  
Cold War American Culture 245

AARON S. LECKLIDER

Striking a Line through the Great American Desert 267

ANDREW MENARD

The Jefferson Davis Highway: Contesting the Confederacy  
in the Pacific Northwest 281

EUAN HAGUE AND EDWARD H. SEBESTA

Passionate Intensity: Political Blogs and the American  
Journalistic Tradition 303

VIVIANE SERFATY

The Party Politics of “Guns versus Butter” in Post-Vietnam  
America 317

JUNGKUN SEO

Jack Benny and America’s Mission after World War II:  
Openness, Pluralism, Internationalism, and Supreme  
Confidence 337

JAMES GRAHAM WILSON

The Languages of Charles Reznikoff 355

IAN DAVIDSON

## Review Essay

Diaspora in the Americas: Transnational American Studies in  
Practice 371

JOHN A. GRONBECK-TEDESCO

Reviews 381

Exclusive Online Reviews [www.journals.cambridge.org/ams](http://www.journals.cambridge.org/ams)

## Reviews

- Eric Jay Dolin, *Fur, Trade, and Empire: The Epic History of the Fur Trade in America* 381
- Susan Castillo, *American Literature in Context to 1865* 382
- Robert E. McGlone, *John Brown's War against Slavery* 383
- Constance Areson Clark, *God – or Gorilla: Images of Evolution in the Jazz Age* 385
- Victoria F. Nourse, *In Reckless Hands: Skinner v. Oklahoma and the Near Triumph of American Eugenics* 385
- Julia A. Stern, *Mary Chesnut's Civil War Epic* 387
- Victoria N. Morgan, *Emily Dickinson and Hymn Culture: Tradition and Experience* 388
- Nancy Bentley, *Frantic Panoramas: American Literature and Mass Culture, 1870–1920* 389
- Douglas S. Harvey, *The Theatre of Empire: Frontier Performances in America, 1750–1860* 390
- Vincent J. Cannato, *American Passage: The History of Ellis Island* 392
- Erika Lee and Judy Yung, *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America* 392
- Jennifer Guglielmo, *Living the Revolution: Italian Women's Resistance and Radicalism in New York City: 1880–1945* 394
- Kevin C. Armitage, *The Nature Study Movement: The Forgotten Populizer of America's Conservation Ethic* 395
- Andrew Johnstone and Helen Laville (eds.), *The U.S. Public and American Foreign Policy* 397
- Thomas Schatz, *The Genius of the System: Hollywood Filmmaking in the Studio Era* 398
- Richard H. Cummings, *Radio Free Europe's "Crusade for Freedom": Rallying Americans behind Cold War Broadcasting, 1950–1960* 399
- Paul Apostolidis, *Breaks in the Chain: What Immigrant Workers Can Teach America about Democracy* 400
- Jane Chi Hyun Park, *Yellow Future: Oriental Style in Hollywood Cinema* 402
- Deepak Tripathi, *Overcoming the Bush Legacy in Iraq and Afghanistan* 404

## Exclusive Online Reviews

The following reviews are freely available in the online version of this issue at [www.journals.cambridge.org/ams](http://www.journals.cambridge.org/ams).

- Benjamin L. Carp, *Defiance of the Patriots: The Boston Tea Party and the Making of America*
- Jean M. O'Brien, *Firsting and Lasting: Writing Indians out of Existence in New England*
- William H. Truettner, *Painting Indians and Building Empires in North America, 1710–1840*
- Timothy Paul Grady, *Anglo-Spanish Rivalry in Colonial Southeast America, 1650–1725*
- Alan Wolfe and Ira Katznelson (eds.), *Religion and Democracy in the United States: Danger or Opportunity?*
- Wendy A. Woloson, *In Hock: Pawning in America from Independence through the Great Depression*
- Ian D. Copestake, *The Ethics of William Carlos Williams's Poetry*
- Robert Hampson and Will Montgomery (eds.), *Frank O'Hara Now: New Essays on the New York Poet*
- Luke Ferretter, *Sylvia Plath's Fiction: A Critical Study*
- Benjamin Taylor (ed.), *Saul Bellow: Letters*
- Ivan L. G. Pearson, *In the Name of Oil: Anglo-American Relations in the Middle East, 1950–1958*
- Frank Andre Guridy, *Forging Diaspora: Afro-Cubans and African Americans in a World of Empire and Jim Crow*
- Eleanor Ty, *Unfastened: Globality and Asian North American Narratives*
- Julian E. Zelizer (ed.), *The Presidency of George W. Bush: A First Historical Assessment*
- Derek Rubin and Jaap Verheul (eds.), *American Multiculturalism after 9/11: Transatlantic Perspectives*
- Adam R. Nelson and John L. Rudolph (eds.), *Education and the Culture of Print in Modern America*