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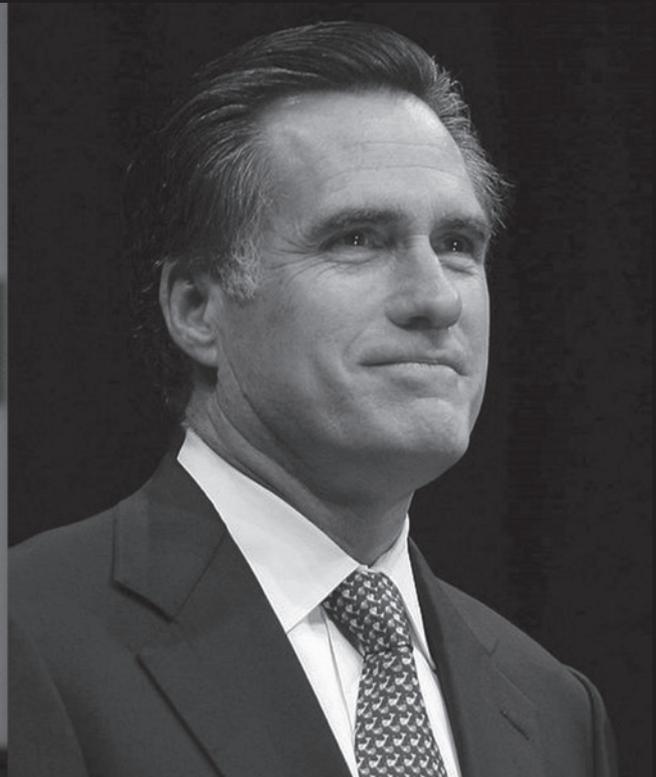
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American Studies in Britain

Newsletter of the British Association for American Studies



CFP: The 58th BAAS
Annual Conference

An Interview with
Richard H. King

The Chair's
Report, 2012

A BAAS Special
Report: 'American
Studies in the UK:
2000-2010'

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***ASIB* – American Studies in Britain
Newsletter of the British Association for American Studies**

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Cover: 'Obama Vs. Romney'.

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ASIB is the newsletter of the British Association for American Studies, but the opinions expressed in its pages are those of the contributors alone and do not necessarily reflect the policies or beliefs of the Association.

Editorial

US elections are never pretty. Who needs a Presidential campaign written in the poetry of salvation, Cuomo's precursor to government in prose, when there is the low poetics of attack? There are observers for whom the mudslinging between Democrats and Republicans this season is extremely serious, upsetting, hardly conducive to what should be above-the-fray political discourse. One can sympathise, for what is at stake in this election—like others—has very serious implications for millions. And yet only the most actively glum spectator, reflexively immature to life's frequent liaisons of comedy and tragedy, could have suppressed a smile or two in recent months. Not simply at the sheer silliness of campaign vitriol in 'attack ads', but at the thought of the strategic 'brainstorming' which must catalyse its beginnings.

Speaking of campaign strategy, Mr Romney has certainly completed some remarkable manoeuvres, though not often (numerous Republican analysts opine) to their intended effect. Most recently, the Governor's '47 percent comment' about the 'victimhood' of the US middle class (although admittedly earthy and honest for *The Daily Mail's* Melanie Phillips), can scarcely have better positioned President Obama as a naturally anti-elitist incumbent. Now, as we glance back to our haloed British Summer—when even pro- and anti-monarchists shared in the revelry of an undoubtedly world-class Team GB—Mr Romney's other 'campaign gaffe' about London Olympic security (recall the Prime Minister's slyly coded rebuttal), now seems comparatively benign to his election chances. At least Mr Romney can still count on the support of filmmakers who make staccato conversation with empty chairs. For those less forgiving of the fuzzy metaphor of *that* convention speech (was Mr Eastwood suggesting that Mr Obama is an empty chair?); the gap between the two Presidential candidates now seems to be widening in favour of the incumbent at the most decisive phase. Still Mr Obama has not had it all his own way (and October's candidates' debates leave room for movement). Many on the left continue to critique the President's foreign policy as scarcely distinguishable from his predecessor, some as unimpressed with "all that hopey changey stuff" as Ms Sarah Palin. Others cry

foul that, amidst representations of Mr Romney as 'too negative', Mr Obama has seemingly evaded mainstream interrogation of similar tactics simply by 'leading from the back'.

Highlighting the vitality of American Studies in Britain, our community has numerous opportunities for election-analysis this Autumn, not least at events hosted by the Eccles Centre www.bl.ac.uk/ecclescentre. The editor could scarcely have avoided the topic in a wide-ranging conversation with this issue's special guest interviewee: BAAS Honorary Fellow, Richard H. King. (Readers who submitted positive feedback about 'An interview with Helen Taylor' (*ASIB*: 106) are warmly thanked.) Other highlights in this issue include the Chair's annual report on community conditions, including a recognition of "strong published scholarship" in the past year. The editor should especially like to point readers to a BAAS Special Report by Richard Martin (see www.baas.ac.uk) and an accompanying introduction herein. The Secretary's AGM minutes always provide an excellent update of BAAS activities; readers should note the significant recent appointments of Sylvia Ellis as Treasurer and Sue Currell as Vice Chair, and that the deadline for proposals for the 58th BAAS annual conference is **1 November 2012**. As ever for *ASIB*, this issue contains a fascinating set of members' travel and funding reports. Readers should also feel free to report other community activities (such as blogs or social media work, for example) to the editor by the copy deadline for issue 108, **3 February 2013**.

– Kal Ashraf

The 58th BAAS Annual Conference

University of Exeter

18-21 April 2013

Plenary Speakers

- **Paul Gilroy**, Anthony Giddens Professor of Social Theory at the London School of Economics
- **Dolores Hayden**, Professor of Architecture, Urbanism and American Studies at Yale University
- **Anders Stephanson**, Andrew and Virginia Rudd Family Foundation Professor of History at Columbia University

Call for Papers

There is no overarching theme to the conference, and papers and panel proposals are welcomed on any subject that falls under the remit of American Studies. We invite proposals from individuals and from other interest groups including associations linked to BAAS, such as the APG, BGEAH, BrANCH, and HOTCUS. Half a century after 1963, we invite proposals inspired by the events of that year and the tumultuous decade that followed. 2013 also represents the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and we welcome suggestions for related papers and panels.

Proposals for 20-minute presentations should be a maximum of 250 words and include a provisional title. Proposals by two or more people sharing a common theme are warmly invited and we welcome panels that cross disciplinary boundaries. The conference organisers hope to continue the initiative shown at previous BAAS Annual Conferences by scheduling roundtable discussions and innovative panel presentations, and we encourage such proposals as appropriate.

All proposals should be submitted to baas2013@exeter.ac.uk by **1 November 2012**.

American Studies at Exeter

American Studies has a long-standing presence at the University of Exeter. The research interests of staff include transatlantic literary relations, American criminality, film noir, the literature of the suburbs, the Hollywood blockbuster, US immigration, Seattle in the 1990s, the American musical, the culture of the American South, Irish American identities and literature, childhood in America, the Ku Klux Klan, and contemporary American comics. The University holds several major resources that are of interest to American Studies scholars, notably the American Music Collection (one of the largest archives of American popular music outside the United States) and the Bill Douglas Centre for the History of Cinema and Popular Culture.

Exeter is located 12 miles from the sea, in the county of Devon, home to several Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Dartmoor National Park and the Jurassic Coast, a World Heritage Site. For further information, please visit the conference website: <http://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/research/conferences/baas2013> or contact the conference organisers at baas2013@exeter.ac.uk.

The Chair's Report

Professor Martin Halliwell spoke at the Annual General Meeting, held at the 57th BAAS Annual Conference, University of Manchester, 13 April 2012.

The opening four months of 2012 have been strange ones, particularly from a US perspective: the good news is that economic recovery looks like it is on the way with American jobs increasing month on month since December, but it is unclear whether this is the result of federal policy, a temporary recovery engineered for election year on behalf of the Obama administration, or just part of the cyclical nature of recession and recovery. We have been treated to – or have had to endure, depending on your perspective – a lengthy series of Republican primaries with three candidates trying to keep in touch with the likely nominee Mitt Romney, accusing Romney of not being Republican enough, of having a health care plan not dissimilar to the Affordable Care Act, and waiting for him to make the next mistake: whether it is claiming that he is ‘learning’ to eat grits in the Deep South, that campaign politics are like ‘etch a sketch’, or trying to appeal to his electorate by claiming that his favourite comedians are The Three Stooges. We have also had a campaign to rewrite the mangled ‘drum major’ inscription on the recently-opened Martin Luther King, Jr. statue on the National Mall, a HBO film of Sarah Palin’s Vice-Presidential campaign of 2008, Obama singing Al Green and ‘Sweet Home Chicago’, and David Cameron praising the US President for his ‘moral leadership’. Although Andy Rudalevige from Dickinson College has recently lectured in Leicester and Copenhagen on the ‘snarly sort of politics’ that is already emerging in the 2012 election, it is more of a weird sort of political potion that will intoxicate some, poison others, and no doubt leave us all gripped until November.

In Britain the political picture since 2010 has not been good for Higher Education, and we see fissures opening up in the sector this year. If the higher fees are not enough to divide the 2011 and 2012 generation of students and those universities who can confidently charge fees of £9000 a year and those that are risking recruitment with higher

fees, then the government’s uneven attempt to regulate parts of the sector and to deregulate others has injected turbulence into the sector, with four 1994 Group universities recently joining the Russell Group, together with the suspicion that the government would not be unhappy if a handful of other institutions disappeared or merged in the next few years.

The key issues this year for American Studies have been undergraduate recruitment patterns and the issue of year abroad fees. Along with other Area Studies and Modern Language subjects, we have seen an overall decline in the number of American Studies applicants, with a slight increase in those applying for three-year degrees. The good news is that the decline is not as marked as 2006 when undergraduate fees last rose. BAAS’s attempt to lobby the government and vice-chancellors to keep year abroad fees down has been partially successful, at least in the short term, but there is still the distinct possibility that four-year degrees will look expensive for many school leavers and that more traditional degree subjects will be encouraged by school teachers, HE advisors and parents alike. We welcome the British Academy and the University Council of Modern Languages’s recent joint statement ‘Valuing the Year Abroad’ (www.britac.ac.uk/policy/Valuing_The_Year_Abroad.cfm), but we must ensure that the year abroad component does not fade into the background. There is also the spectre of increased postgraduate fees, but I will save that topic for another year.

One BAAS initiative this year was to start an annual schools’ conference focusing on a particular American topic, with the plan to move the conference around the UK’s regions. We began this February with a day conference on ‘US Politics and Government’ at Pocklington School, York, which featured some well-known speakers: John Dumbrell, Iwan Morgan and Scott Lucas, and a curriculum session by Tom Virender from Silcoates School, Wakefield. The day was a huge success and I would like to thank the BAAS Teachers’ Liaison Representative, Gareth Hughes, for all his work in organising the event, Pocklington School for hosting it, and the US Embassy in London for

providing sponsorship. We will be looking for a suitable school in the Midlands, South West or South East to hold the 2013 schools' conference.

Also on the positive side, we have seen some fantastic submissions this year for the range of awards sponsored by BAAS, the US Embassy and the Eccles Centre at the British Library (which remain two of our most important external partners); some really strong published scholarship; a new biennial joint initiative with the Irish Association for American Studies to hold a joint Postgraduate & Early Careers Conference (the first of which was held at Trinity College Dublin this January); and a range of grants awarded by research councils and charities, including:

Dr James Russell (De Montfort) has been awarded £98,000 by the Leverhulme Trust for his two-year project 'Hollywood and the Baby Boom, A Social History'.

Joy Porter (Swansea, now Hull) has received an AHRC Research Fellowship worth £51,417 for her project 'The American Indian Poet of the First World War: Modernism and the Indian Identity of Frank "Toronto" Prewett' and a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship for the project 'The American Presidency and Tribal Diplomacy in the 20th Century' (£113,950).

- **Dr Faye Hammill (Strathclyde) has been awarded £236,000 from the AHRC for the collaborative project 'Magazines, Travel and Middlebrow Culture in Canada'.**
- **Professor Don MacRaild (Northumbria) has won an AHRC grant of £285,000 for the project 'Locating the Hidden Diaspora: The English in North America in Transatlantic Perspective, 1760-1950'.**
- **Dr Robin Vandome (Nottingham) has been awarded a \$60,000 Mellon Foundation fellowship at the New York Historical Society for 2012-13.**
- **Professor Bridget Bennett and Dr Hamilton Carroll (Leeds) have been awarded £37,000 from the AHRC for a project entitled 'Imagining the Place of Home'.**
- **Dr Vivien Miller (Nottingham) is the PI of an AHRC research network grant in the Translating Culture stream entitled**

'Translating Penal Cultures', worth £23,315.

There have been really encouraging initiatives at Northumbria University, including five new appointments (including a Chair of American Studies) and firm plans to start a new American Studies undergraduate degree in 2013, and at the Institute for the Study of Americas, the current staff of which will be joining University College London in July to form the UCL Institute of the Americas under the directorship of Professor Maxine Molyneux. The Institute for the Study of the Americas at the School of Advanced Studies will continue to promote and facilitate research on the United States and the Americas more broadly, and has appointed Professor Linda Newson as its new director. In addition, there have been new permanent Americanist appointments at the Universities of Hull, Leicester, UEA, Exeter and Kent, among other institutions.

We can also celebrate a number of promotions and appointments in the American Studies community including, to Chairs, Nick Selby and Sarah Churchwell (University of East Anglia), Alan Rice (University of Central Lancashire), Celeste-Marie Bernier (University of Nottingham), Faye Hammill (Strathclyde University) and Clive Webb (University of Sussex). We congratulate Brian Ward on his appointment as Research Professor of American Studies at Northumbria University from August and, my predecessor as BAAS Chair, Professor Heidi Macpherson (De Montfort University) for her appointment to the position of Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, a position Heidi will take up in July. Congratulations to all.

My colleagues on the BAAS Executive will be reporting on some of the other work we have done this year, but I wanted to mention particularly our 2011-12 BAAS project, entitled 'American Studies in the UK, 2000-2010'. I wish, particularly, to thank the work of our BAAS intern Richard Martin, John Fagg (the Development Chair), the Fulbright Commission, and all colleagues who have participated through interviews or by providing data. The plan is to publish this as an open-access report in July via the BAAS website as a snapshot of how American Studies has developed as a discipline in the early twenty-first century and as a resource for future scholars.

Finally, I would like to thank all of my BAAS Executive colleagues for a really productive year, particularly Jo Gill (the BAAS Secretary) who joined the Executive last year and colleagues who have finished their term of office: Iwan Morgan (who has been our representative at the Academy of Social Sciences), John Fagg (the Chair of the Development Subcommittee), Zalfa Feghali (our Postgraduate Representative), and former BAAS Chair Philip Davies, who steps down as the European Association for American Studies representative after five years in the role. The excellent news for BAAS is that Phil has been recently elected to the full role of President of EAAS for the next four years, which will really help to boost the profile of BAAS in and beyond Europe. Many congratulations Phil.

I wanted to save my last word for our outgoing BAAS Treasurer, Theresa Saxon. Theresa has been in the role of Treasurer for four years and was a valuable BAAS Executive member before that. We have all enjoyed working with Theresa immensely – she is a real professional and she has brought both good sense and glamour to the really important role of BAAS Treasurer. Thank you, Theresa. This ends my 2012 BAAS Chair's Report.

Introducing a BAAS Special Report by Richard Martin: 'American Studies in the UK, 2000-2010'

Cast your mind back, for a moment, to the year 2000 – to a world before 9/11, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and Hurricane Katrina. Al Gore looked a safe bet to become President, while it seemed unlikely that a man named Barack Obama, busy losing a congressional primary race in Illinois, would be causing anything across the Atlantic to 'bounce' in the near future. At this point, the American Studies community in the UK was more concerned with the impact on recruitment figures of tuition fees costing £1000 a year. There was, at the beginning of this new decade, no Rothermere American Institute in Oxford or Congress to Campus programme run by the Eccles Centre. Organisations such as the Transatlantic Studies Association and Historians of Twentieth Century America, as well as publications like the European Journal of American Culture and Comparative American Studies, were yet to be born. E-journals and other digital resources were in their infancy.

Such developments are the focus of a recently-published research report, commissioned by BAAS in conjunction with the Fulbright Commission, that examines how American Studies in the UK evolved between 2000 and 2010. Since April 2011, I have been interviewing scholars throughout the country, as well as collating written submissions and statistical data from a variety of sources, in an attempt to map the key institutional and intellectual changes of the last decade. Contributors range from current postgraduates to Emeritus Professors, and include seven BAAS chairs. International perspectives emerged from Delhi, Stanford and Sydney.

Discussing the state of American Studies with so many of its leading figures certainly demonstrated to me the multitude of opinions contained within the community: there are those for whom transnationalism is a fad and those for whom it is now an essential and established scholarly perspective; there are lecturers who found the decade's political events overshadowing their seminars (and, indeed, shaping how many students

were there in the first place) and those who believe that the effects of Bush's presidency and Obama's election on perceptions of American Studies have been drastically over-emphasised. Some observers are deeply concerned about the reduction in distinct American Studies departments seen in the last decade, while others consider this less important (or even, perhaps, an opportunity for more innovative scholarship), so long as rigorous interdisciplinary work continues elsewhere and modules on American topics remain popular with students. The very definition of American Studies has come under intense scrutiny in the conversations and submissions prompted by the project – should we consider this to be a discipline, a culture, a critical methodology, or a paradigm? Have the composition of degree programmes and individual modules changed in response to broader intellectual movements, in terms of subject matter, geographical focus, gender and race?

Of course, the final report, which is now available on the BAAS homepage, does not seek to be a comprehensive account of all these complex issues. Rather, its objective is to contribute to a wider debate about the historical and institutional development of American Studies in the UK and to provide a resource document for future researchers. Given that considerable changes to academic funding and accountability are about to take hold, it seems an especially apt moment to take stock of the recent past. No doubt the issues currently believed to be crucial to the future of American Studies – a reorganised and expanded fees regime, increasing digital exchange, fluctuations in the global standing of the United States – will be joined or superseded before long by some unknown unknowns.

In the meantime, I'd very much like to extend my thanks to everyone who took the time to contribute to the project—it was a pleasure to hear so many fascinating opinions and to be welcomed to so many different institutions—and to encourage opinion on the final report to be directed to richard.martin@baas.ac.uk.

Richard Martin
(BAAS Intern)

Minutes of the BAAS AGM, 2012

The 2012 AGM of the British Association for American Studies was held on Friday 13 April at the University of Manchester at 4 pm.

Elections:

Treasurer	Dr Sylvia Ellis (to 2015)
Committee	Dr. Michael Collins (to 2015) * Dr. Bridget Bennett (to 2015) Dr. Rachael McLennan (to 2015) Dr. Michael P. Bibler (to 2014) #
EAAS Rep	Dr Theresa Saxon (to 2017)
PG Rep	Mr John Ward (to 2012)

* Previously elected 2010-12 to an unexpired post; re-elected 2012 for three years.

Elected for two years to an unexpired post (vacated by Dr Sylvia Ellis)

Amendment to the Constitution:

The Secretary asked the membership to consider the proposal raised in the AGM 2012 Notice (published in the Spring issue of *American Studies in Britain*) regarding the addition of a post on the BAAS Executive for early career scholars:

To add a 2-year post to the BAAS Executive for early career scholars with an institutional affiliation working on any aspect of American Studies. To be eligible candidates must be within three years of successfully completing their PhD and must be members of BAAS. Former BAAS Postgraduate Representatives are eligible for election, but all candidates must have submitted the final post-viva version of their PhD at least two weeks before the BAAS AGM to stand. This Early Career Scholar position is a single non-renewal term; the individual would be eligible to stand for a full 3-year BAAS Executive position at the end of their second year.

This entails a change to the BAAS Constitution (section 6) which as per section 13 must be approved by the membership at the AGM. The Secretary (JG) explained that this change

was proposed in order (a) to ensure that the experiences and concerns of early career colleagues were represented on the Exec and (b) that the Exec was able to encourage continuing involvement on the part of graduate students and their constituency as they continued through into postdoctoral careers. JG (Exeter) proposed the motion; Dick Ellis (Birmingham) seconded it, and it was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer circulated copies of the Trustees' Report and the draft audited accounts, which she asked the AGM to approve. Dick Ellis (Birmingham) proposed that the accounts be approved; Heidi Macpherson (De Montfort) seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

TS reported that fully paid-up as members as at April 2012 currently stand at 304 (102 postgraduate). This is a slight overall increase on last year (302/104). If one includes members who have not yet changed their Standing Orders, the numbers stand at 406 (123 postgrad) as compared to 2011 where with no change to SO, the figures were: 424 (130 postgrad). TS reminded the AGM, again, of the need to update Standing Orders. Members with out-of-date SOs have already been written to; TS noted that membership needs continual monitoring as SOs sometimes get cancelled without reference to the database administrator and we run the risk of sending out Journals to cancelled members. In terms of the Accounts, TS noted a deficit of £2,222.

Chair's Report:

The Chair offered a comprehensive verbal report* in which he reflected on recent events.

*Reproduced in full earlier in this issue of *ASIB* (– Ed).

Conferences:

1. 57th BAAS Conference / Manchester

Tom Ruys Smith began by thanking Ian Scott, Brian Ward, Hannah Mansell and the rest of the Manchester conference team for all their many efforts over the past months and years to get us all to this point. He observed that the conference had been a great success so far and that there was much more still to come on the programme.

2. 58th BAAS Conference / Exeter (2013)

TRS noted that the BAAS Exec had already visited Exeter to view facilities for next year's conference (18 to 21 April 2012) and observed that arrangements are already in a state of great readiness. He noted that the call for papers was available in conference packs and urged members to start planning papers and panels in good time for the submission deadline of November 1st. He drew members' attention to the three exciting keynote speakers who have already been confirmed.

3. Future conferences

TRS confirmed that in 2014 BAAS will be heading to the University of Birmingham, and in 2015 to Northumbria University. He noted that BAAS are still looking to finalise a venue for BAAS 2016 and asked interested parties to contact him for information about the process.

4. Conference Subcommittee

Finally, TRS offered sincere thanks to Theresa Saxon for all of her work on the Conference Subcommittee.

Development:

John Fagg noted that two further reports on areas that fall under the Development Subcommittee remit – Libraries and Resources and EAAS – would follow later in the meeting. In addition, as announced at last year's AGM, during 2011-12 BAAS in association with the Fulbright commission have employed Richard Martin to write a report mapping the development of American Studies in the UK between 2000 and 2010. With the support of many members of the American Studies community who have contributed written statements, given interviews or offered information and suggestions, Richard has produced a rich, detailed, stimulating piece of work. RM's summary of the project is below; the draft of his report will then go out for wider consultation. JF noted that RM has reported to the subcommittee throughout the year – and that the subcommittee provided advice and steers – but that on the whole, their role has been watching RM progress in a diligent, efficient, intelligent and independent manner – while also completing getting his PhD and doing large amounts of teaching. JF offered his congratulations!

1. Allocation of Conference Grants

In his final Annual report as Chair of the subcommittee, Will Kaufman raised concerns about the BAAS's financial ability to continue to support conference funding applications, with specific regard to annual and bi-annual events held by organisations with specific disciplinary or period focus within the American Studies field. The subcommittee has discussed this at length over the past year and has agreed – with certain caveats regarding the way money is spent and the way that BAAS support is signposted – to continue to support such activities where possible.

A second, related, concern regarding Conference Funding is the year-on-year escalation in funding requested and allocated:

2009-10: £3370

2010-11: £4195

2011-12: £4640

The 2011-12 figure includes funding for significant new events in the PG BAAS calendar (addressed below). Increasing professionalisation (or other factors) mean that the subcommittee is receiving applications for events significantly ahead of time – some of the funding agreed in September 2011 is for events to be held in summer 2012 so the year-on-year comparison is slightly skewed. Nonetheless – the increase in applications does require careful attention and the subcommittee will institute new procedures over the next year to ensure that our levels of funding allocation remain sustainable.

The good-news side of this story is that the number and range of strong applications for funds to support one-day symposiums, annual conferences, outreach events and a Film and Cultural Festival is evidence of the health and vibrant research culture of American Studies.

Over the last 12 months the subcommittee has allocated funding to 3 one-off events that have now taken place:

“American Imagetext” (UEA); “Orality and Literacy” (a Transatlantic themed meeting of the London Nineteenth-Century Seminar Series at Birkbeck); “Ranking American Presidents” (Northumbria).

And funding to 5 further one-off activities that are ‘coming soon’:

“Transnational Networks and Nineteenth-Century Periodical Culture” (Birmingham); “Markets, Law, and Ethics, 1400-1800” (Sheffield); “The First International Djuna Barnes Conference” (Birkbeck); “Audre Lorde’s Legacy” (Kent), and “Melville and Americanness” (UEA).

Support has also been given to:

The APG/BAAS Colloquium and the Congress to Campus event at the Eccles Centre; the 13th Scottish Association for the Study of America Conference at the University of Glasgow and “American Frontiers” (BAAS Postgraduate Conference 2011) at Birmingham.

Funds have also been allocated to forthcoming standing events:

“Joining Places, Joining People” the British Group in Early American History Annual Conference to be held at St Andrews.

2. Postgraduate

The BAAS Postgraduate Conference “American Frontiers” at Birmingham, organised by John Horne, Rebecca Isaacs and Katie Barnett, was a real success with a Keynote from Liam Kennedy, 9 panel sessions and 80+ delegates. The conference organisers also built an excellent website and were engaged in publicising and building sustainable research networks.

Conference organisers were supported by Zalfa Feghali in her final year as BAAS PG rep. Zalfa’s other major achievement in this role this year has been to establish and co-organise the first joint Irish Association for American Studies (IAAS) and BAAS Postgraduate and Early Career conference. Zalfa worked with Louise Walsh and Katie Kirwan, her IAAS counterparts to organise a very successful event that took place on January 13-14 at Trinity College, Dublin with the theme “Transgressive and Transgression” and plenary lectures from Martin Halliwell and IAAS Chair Philip McGowan of Queen’s University Belfast. This event accounted for the significant new allocation mentioned earlier as BAAS matched IAAS’s contribution and provided £600 to support the event. The plan is for this to become a biennial event with the next conference to be held in the UK.

Finally, on PG activity, the Development Subcommittee instigated and administered a new bursary to support Postgraduate Students who give papers at the EAAS Conference. Rachael Williams (Nottingham) and Kristin Brill (Cambridge) both received £200 towards travel and accommodation for the Conference in Izmir, Turkey.

3. Schools Liaison

JF noted that the BAAS was fortunate to welcome Gareth Hughes from Pocklington School in Yorkshire to the Exec this year. Gareth has brought energy and initiative to the role of Schools' Liaison. The most significant area of activity has been the BAAS American Government and Politics Student Conference held at Pocklington School on 6 February 2012. Recognising the success of similar events pitched at 'A' Level students and held (almost exclusively) in London, Gareth instigated an event covering topics in American Politics for Sixth Forms in the North of England. With financial support from the American Embassy, the day included talks by John Dumbrell, Iwan Morgan, Scott Lucas and Tom Verinder as well as an introduction to BAAS from Martin Halliwell and a roundtable session to close the day. Conceived as a 'pilot' and the first of a series, this event and those planned for the future are designed as a means of engaging sixth form students with the discipline and expanding BAAS's outreach network.

4. Special Report: 'American Studies in the UK 2000-2010.'

*Please see an introduction to the BAAS Special Report 'American Studies in the UK 2000-2010' by the author in the previous section of this issue of *ASIB* (-Ed).

Richard Martin indicated that the final version of his special report for BAAS will be published as an open-access document on the BAAS website in June 2012, and drew attention to some of the report's key findings:

- To begin with, throughout the last decade, there's been a great deal of concern over the number of students entering American Studies degree programmes. Data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) indicates that there was a 19.7% increase in the number of students enrolled on American Studies courses between 1996/1997 and 2001/2002. This was followed by a 36.7% reduction in

student numbers between 2002/2003 and 2010/2011. These numbers include both undergraduate and postgraduate students. These figures are analysed and explained in detail in the report, particularly in the context of tuition fees and any potential impact from the decade's political events.

- In terms of political impact, one theory, often anecdotally expressed, is that American Studies enjoyed an 'Obama bounce' in the wake of the 2008 Presidential election. On first glance, UCAS figures seem to support this idea. Two years of substantial decline in American Studies applications in 2007 and 2008 were followed in 2009 by an increase of 21.6%. However, this trend must be seen in the context of other increases in related subjects and in overall university applications. Compare the application figures for American Studies with those for English, History and Politics, for example. In 2008, applications to all four disciplines, as well as overall applications to all degree courses in the UK, were in decline, though American Studies suffered the most prominent dip. Subsequently, applications to all four disciplines, as well as overall applications to all degree courses, then rose substantially in 2009, though again the movement was much more pronounced in American Studies. Application figures for 2010 onwards also suggest a consolidation of the discipline after a lean period earlier in the decade, a trend supported by admissions data from individual departments.
- In terms of institutional developments, the report notes how the number of departments offering American Studies degree courses has fallen in recent years. There has been particular concern over the progress of American Studies in post-1992 universities. At the same time, the report acknowledges that American modules in other departments remain popular and important new research and teaching centres have opened. Here, there is particular discussion about the opening of the Rothermere American Institute in Oxford in 2001, and the merger that created the Institute for the Study of the Americas in 2004.
- The report includes a summary of how definitions of American Studies and the

composition of attendant degree programmes have changed during the last decade. Indeed, the very idea of a single, coherent definition of American Studies is not something that seems to appeal to many members of the community, though there is also concern about more fragmented disciplinary models. In particular, the report observes how transnationalism has become a key critical term, though again it also examines how its impact and importance remain the subject of debate. The question of language, especially knowledge of Spanish, remains for the most part an unresolved question in this debate.

- It might not strike you as a surprise to hear that the report's investigation into the RAE assessments of 2001 and 2008 concludes that national mechanisms for measuring research quality have failed to fully account for the work produced by British scholars in American Studies.
- In terms of American Studies organisations, the report examines how BAAS has broadened its activities and reshaped its priorities. It also looks at the significant growth in the last decade of other organisations focused on specific areas of American Studies – organisations such as HOTCUS and the Society for the History of Women in the Americas.
- Finally, one worrying finding to emerge from the report is a distinct gender imbalance in some aspects of American Studies scholarship. For example, over two-thirds of articles published in the *Journal of American Studies* between 2000 and 2010 were written by men. It should be noted the gender imbalance seen in the published articles in *JAS* closely follows the gender imbalance in submissions. By contrast, *US Studies Online* – the BAAS postgraduate journal – had an almost 50/50 gender ratio in its articles published during the last decade.

This, then, is a very brief overview of the major points of discussion that the report raises.

Awards:

Speaking on behalf of Ian Bell (who was absent due to ill health) and Sylvia Ellis (who was involved with arrangements for the BAAS elections), JG began her report by thanking all those involved

in judging the various prizes given this year. She also thanked Louise Cunningham (Keele) for her tireless work in administering the awards. JG noted that BAAS works with partners at the Eccles Centre (British Library), the Arthur Miller Centre (UEA) and the American Embassy in funding and administering the awards, and expressed BAAS's gratitude for their continuing support.

This year, again, BAAS will award substantial number of awards. JG reported that, for 2012-14, the new GTA Award in Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi had been won by Jodie Free (UEA) and that the GTA Award at Virginia has been won by Myles Oldershaw (also UEA). Both would be in attendance at the Gala Dinner the following evening, as would Ted Ownby (Mississippi) to present the award. JG noted that early information about Awards available for 2012-13 was in the Conference pack.

Publications:

George Lewis began his verbal report by reporting on some of the highlights of the year in relation to the Publications subcommittee.

1. *ASIB*

The latest edition of *ASIB* had carried the first of the planned series of BAAS Fellows' interviews, with Professor Helen Taylor. Two other BAAS Fellows have already confirmed their willingness to be interviewed for future editions.

2. *U.S. Studies Online*

The new web address for *USSO* has been confirmed as usstudiesonline.com. Issue 20, the postgraduate conference issue, will help to launch that site when it goes live at the end of April. Three of the four journal articles for Issue 20 have been received and edited; the fourth is due on 20 April.

3. *Journal of American Studies*

GL reported on recent developments at the *Journal of American Studies*, now under the editorship of Professors Celeste Marie Bernier and Scott Lucas. These include changes of editorial emphasis and of submission and review processes. This year *JAS* has moved to an average page length of 280 pp. per issue, supplemented by extra features (such as reviews) available in the online version. Other innovations include the introduction of 'Round Table' debates on particular issues. Martine Walsh at CUP has

confirmed that two of the five board members whose terms expire at the end of this year, Marjorie Spruill and Richard Crockatt, have agreed to serve for another term. GL and the editorial team agreed to seek replacements for the three others with specialists in similar fields.

Libraries and Resources:

Dick Ellis reported on the Libraries and Resources subcommittee's continuing work in auditing the position of American Studies in libraries to assess the possibility of sharing resources on a regional basis and noted that several universities (including Cambridge and Birmingham) had expressed an interest in collaborating on a consortium bid to ProQuest in order to acquire access to their Twentieth-Century Newspapers archive). Discussions are ongoing. He also reported on the departure of BLARS members (including Donald Tait and Kevin Halliwell) and their replacement by Jane Rawson (RAI, Oxford) and Susan Reid (Dundee). BLARs had hosted, as usual, the opening session of the conference (this time on intellectual copyright). At Exeter in 2012, BLARS will contribute to the opening session on Impact, Public Engagement and Knowledge Transfer.

EAAS:

PD reported on the success of the recent EAAS biannual conference in Izmir, Turkey and congratulated Martin Halliwell for his excellent plenary lecture, sponsored by the Eccles Centre. Numbers were down on recent years, possibly reflecting the non-central location and tightening academic budgets, but the international turnout was still good and the quality of workshops was high. Conferees seemed pleased with the conference (and the pleasant weather, picturesque location and fine sea food of Izmir may all have helped).

The Rob Kroes prize winner was announced (Frank Mehring) and the ASN Book Prize winner (Brigitte Dawes). The EAAS Board confirmed Jenel Virden (Hull) as joint Senior Editor of the *European Journal for American Studies* and John Dumbrell (Durham) as an associate editor. The Association for American Studies in South East Europe was accepted as a new member of EAAS. Adina Ciugureana (Romania) was elected Treasurer, and Philip Davies (BAAS) elected President, both for

four year terms. The next conference of EAAS will be held in The Hague from Friday 4th to Monday 7th April 2014. The call for workshop proposals will be made later this year.

AOB:

The AGM concluded at 5.30pm.

An Interview with BAAS Honorary Fellow, Professor Richard H. King

Continuing the editor's series of interviews with BAAS Honorary Fellows, Professor Richard H. King offers a fascinating account of his feelings about research, writing, philosophy, and more.

KA: You were awarded a BAAS Honorary Fellowship for services to British American Studies in 2009. And many readers will know of you as a former Chair of the Association. Can you elaborate a little on your relationship to BAAS?

*RHK: I was of course honoured to be recognised by BAAS. BAAS, especially through the annual conferences and the *Journal of American Studies*, has always been welcoming of new people and ideas. For instance, just a year or two after I arrived in 1983, Howard Temperley, then editor of the *JAS*, published my review essay on philosopher Richard Rorty. Howard could have just turned it down as too esoteric for an American Studies journal. But he didn't. I also remember the friendliness that numerous people such as Bob Burchell, Tony Badger, Michael Heale, Helen Taylor, Mick Gidley and Richard Carwardine showed me when I first met them at the annual conferences. BAAS conferences present a nice alternative to the larger American conferences like the ASA, OAH and AHA. As chair of BAAS my first goal was to increase participation by postgraduates, women and other under-represented groups, an effort already begun by my predecessor as Chair of BAAS, Bob Burchell, as well as Tony Badger. Incidentally, BAAS conferences now need greater participation by mid-career and senior scholars.*

KA: Interesting. Now, having edited lots of BAAS member profiles for this publication, it's clear that many in our community have research interests in the terrain of US race relations. How did you locate your own research interests in this area?

RHK: I was extremely lucky to grow up in the midst of the civil rights era/movement. During my freshman year at the University of North Carolina in 1959-60, the sit-in movement began in Greensboro, NC, just fifty miles away. Picketing of segregated restaurants and movie theatres in Chapel Hill took off shortly thereafter. Being

involved in picketing these places, being "present at the creation" of the movement, was important in determining my scholarly interests. I soon realised that I had to inform myself about Southern and what we now call African-American history in order to meet the arguments from segregationists and conservatives that the southern racial order was both permanent and best for all concerned. As a white southerner who grew up under segregation, it often felt a little strange participating in civil rights demonstrations and then later teaching at Black colleges in Jackson, Tennessee, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama. It was like being on the other side of the "looking glass," viewing the white South from across the colour barrier. It wasn't a very pretty or edifying sight.

KA: I asked Helen Taylor this, and I'd like to ask you the same. What does race mean?

*RHK: First race is an idea with a (largely modern) history and can be studied in terms of the history of ideas or intellectual history. It is important to know how the race idea developed over time and how it was shaped by and also shaped historical experience. In my *Race, Culture and the Intellectuals, 1940-1970* (2004), I wanted to avoid yet another study of how stupid and evil the segregationists and racists were. Rather, I wanted to understand how proponents of racial equality couched their arguments against the culture of racism and segregation. What were the most effective arguments against racism? How did the struggle in the South relate to the rest of the country? The world? Overall, ideas such as race, freedom, equality, and justice played a huge role in the civil rights movement and the lives of southerners of both races. This means that there should be an intellectual history of the civil rights movement and not just a political or social history of it.*

As an idea, race posits permanent (or very long term) differences between groups defined in terms of their origin, descent and appearance. These differences are valorised; that is, they are arranged into social and cultural hierarchies. One might use

the term “essentialism” to characterise racism but that term has become threadbare. Colour-coded racism, anti-Semitism, misogyny, homophobia are all types of essentialism but they are also very different in origin, development and implications. It doesn’t help much to consider them as variations on “the same thing.” There is still a reluctance on the part of people in Britain to refer directly to race, as though mentioning it confirms its biological reality. Two other observations: educated Americans and Brits find little difficulty in referring to white southerners or lower class whites as “rednecks.” It is the one stereotype that is still allowed. Second, the ineradicable connection between race and slavery is much more alive in the US than it is in the UK, even with migrants from the Caribbean.

KA: *You have likened the 2008 US election cycle to Hoover/Roosevelt in 1932. Elaborate on that, if you will. And how do you see things today, before the 2012 vote?*

RHK: We have, if anything, regressed in political and economic terms from the New Deal-Great Society era when Keynesian ideas were regnant. If anything is clear, policies that cut spending and thus stifle economic expansion are useless in depressed economies. Ironically, the Obama administration has been much more flexible on this issue than the Europeans by and large and certainly more than the Republicans and some Democrats in the US. Then Republicans have accused the Obama administration of failing to revive the economy! The question in this election is whether other factors can outweigh the slow recovery, so that Obama can win. We still don’t know whether and how race will affect the decision making of white and black voters, but one effect of Obama’s term in office has been to show that white racism has to be talked off more complexly than most people on the left have been able to do.

KA: *Let’s talk about ideas. To rework Nabokov’s line, mine is a salad of philosophical genes: innatists such as Rene Descartes, Bertrand Russell, and Noam Chomsky; anti-theists in the sense of the author, Richard Wright. Are there figures you share agreement with philosophically? Tell me about those influences.*

RHK: Great question—though, except for Wright, I don’t share your influences. Anyway—my intellectual “heroes”/formative influences include

Albert Camus, Max Weber, Sigmund Freud and Hannah Arendt, with a late nod to Richard Rorty. Ironically, very few historians have shaped my view of things—perhaps Richard Hofstadter and C. Vann Woodward. More generally, I find that Continental, especially German-language thought, has shaped my thinking more than British thought has. As an intellectual historian, I would suggest two older books that deserve a revival—Edmund Wilson’s *To the Finland Station* and Raymond Williams’s *Culture and Society*, the single most distinguished effort to develop English/British intellectual history.

KA: *I’d love to know about the literature, film, music and art that’s important to you.*

RHK: Literarily, my loyalties and preferences go to Americans such as Thoreau, Melville, Faulkner and Wright among classic writers, and Updike, Roth and Morrison among contemporaries. Beyond the American sphere, the great modernist writers such as Thomas Mann and Franz Kafka, and more recent figures such as Nadine Gordimer and V.S. Naipaul have been important. Among literary and cultural critics, I would list Edmund Wilson, Lionel Trilling, George Steiner, Philip Rieff and Susan Sontag. Alfred Kazin’s *On Native Grounds* is a masterpiece of literary-intellectual history. In his essays, James Baldwin—more than Ralph Ellison—was crucial in defining my understanding of race in America.

Film? I love movies and go regularly. At the same time, it is hard to locate many contemporary American ones that redefine or deepen the way we see the world. Recently, I can think of Charlie Kaufmann’s *Being John Malkovich* and *Synedoché*, along with Debra Granik’s *Winter’s Bone*. Among older American films, Kubrick’s *Dr. Strangelove* remains unmatched, while Terence Malick’s first two films—*Badlands* and *Days of Heaven*—are memorable. Though no great champion of the influence of television, I yield to no one in my admiration for David Simon’s *The Wire*. *The Sopranos* I can take or leave.

Music...Rock ’n’ Roll and Rhythm & Blues defined popular music in my generation (from Elvis to Little Richard and Sam Cooke to the Coasters). But living in Tennessee, I also heard a good bit of country music in the 1950s and 1960s and then got interested in Bluegrass around 1970. It is hard to keep up in Britain. Also, I am tone deaf to the

charms of Brit Pop generally, while post-1945 Jazz has been a long standing interest. Besides the standard Austro-German composers (Bach to Mendelsohn), I have come to like lots of twentieth-century music, including American composers ranging from Charles Ives to Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein to Steve Reich. The *New Yorker* music critic, Alex Ross's wonderfully accessible study of modern music, *The Rest is Noise*, ought to be on everyone's reading list.

Art? Well here my tastes are mainly modernist, i.e. the School of Paris (Picasso, Braque, Matisse, etc) plus German expressionism and its spin-offs. I loved teaching Abstract Expressionism in our 'Thought and Culture' course at Nottingham and found students more receptive to Pollock and Rothko (as much as to the inevitable Warhol) than British art criticism has been until fairly recently. In addition, I still find the underestimation of African-American artists such as Romare Bearden scandalous.

KA: *I think you'll have many allies with some of those picks. But let's go back to HE, and teaching experiences, specifically. I wonder, is teaching something you have enjoyed as much as research?*

RHK: Before coming to England in 1983, I taught at predominantly African-American colleges, so my teaching experience in the two countries has been quite disparate. What I enjoyed most about teaching at Nottingham was having postgraduates. However, until British universities require at least one foreign language of their PhDs and also regular and sustained seminar work (not just work-in-progress seminars) postgraduate education here will lag behind the US. Overall, I must say that undergraduate teaching in the UK was frustrating. Students develop sloppy study habits in the first year and often don't get untracked by the end of the third year. In effect, a BA degree in England demands only two years of serious work. I also taught in Nottingham's postgraduate Critical Theory programme. It's been easy (and often lazy) to criticise the obscurity of much of it. The most remarkable literary and cultural critic plus historian of theory in this whole area is Fredric Jameson.

KA: *Somebody once asked Stephen King how he writes, to which he replied, not without humour, "one word at a time". Do you have a writing routine? How do you go about achieving your writing goals?*

RHK: Nobody who teaches a full load regularly can write in the way professional writers like Stephen King do. I've tended to work in spurts and jumps. I've also spent about a decade between each book but the amount of time devoted actively to writing on the work in progress itself was probably half that long. We academics are enormously lucky, not in how little we have to work but in how much time we have to do what we want to and are supposed to do, though developments in UK Higher Education are hostile to much of what is worthwhile.

KA: *Professor Richard King, thank you.*

RHK: Thank you, too. It was lots of fun.

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

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, Jo Gill (j.r.gill@exeter.ac.uk), with the following information:

- name and title;
- affiliation with complete contact details including address, telephone, fax, and email;
- a 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, Jo Gill, holds a list of potential external examiners. If individuals would like to put their names forward for this list, please email her at j.r.gill@exeter.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 externalising experience (with dates if appropriate);
- current externalising 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 examiner 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 Jo Gill,
Department of English,
University of Exeter,
Queens Drive,
Exeter EX4 4QH.

Travel Award Reports

Founders' Award

Thanks to the generous support of BAAS I was able to spend time at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, completing research for my work as General Editor of the volume *Edith Wharton in Context*.

The project, to be published by Cambridge University Press in the Autumn of 2012, brought together a team of over thirty international Wharton scholars to attempt to provide the first substantive volume focused exclusively on the social, literary, cultural and historical contexts that produced the writer and her long and prolific career. The volume's focus spans archival research, biography, publishing history, material culture, performance and the visual arts, gender studies, sociology and politics, and cultural studies, with writers exploring the ways in which Wharton lived and worked with, through, and sometimes against the contexts that impressed themselves upon her.

At the heart of the ongoing resurgence in Wharton scholarship is the unrivalled collection of the author's papers at the Beinecke Library, comprising over 50,000 items, including manuscript and typescript drafts, abandoned works in progress, personal and professional correspondence, and other writings. I spent my time in the archive, working on my own sections of the volume, examining new discoveries in Wharton scholarship, illustration sourcing alongside some fact retrieving and checking for contributors.

I was especially grateful to have the opportunity to view recent archival recoveries— notably to be one of the first scholars to research the papers of Anna Bahlmann, the woman who was part of Wharton's household for forty years as teacher, secretary and companion. These papers, recently purchased by Yale, include an extensive correspondence between Bahlmann and Wharton, beginning when the author was just twelve and continuing until Bahlmann's untimely death during World War I. In her acclaimed biography, Hermione Lee writes about the "mystery years" of Wharton's narrative, and this newly-discovered correspondence promises to open up a vista on an era of Wharton's life about which little was previously known—

her youth and particularly the early years of her marriage, her own accounts of her illnesses, and her early travels, which formed the basis of her later travel writings. Of all of the papers I was able to consult during my time at the Beinecke, this new material was the highlight and forms the basis of my chapter "Contextual Revisions" in the volume.

This was a very productive and rewarding research trip, and I would like to thank BAAS for its support.

Laura Rattray
(University of Hull)

BAAS Short-Term Travel Award

The BAAS John D. Leeds Travel Award for 2011 enabled me to undertake vital archival research towards my doctoral thesis, *Motherhood and Protest in the United States, 1960-1989*. The thesis explores how ideas about motherhood have shaped political protest in the United States since the 1960s. Examining social movements from across the political spectrum (including the welfare rights, anti-war, anti-busing and anti-abortion movements) it argues that ideologies of motherhood played an integral role in motivating women's activism during this period. It also analyses how activists utilised maternal rhetoric and symbolism to legitimise their activism and advance their cause.

With the generous support of BAAS, I spent the 2011-12 academic year as a visiting scholar at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I was able to conduct an extended period of research at the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) Archives. Not only is the WHS a magnificent building to work in and second only to the Library of Congress in sources on American history, it also boasts particularly strong holdings pertaining to social protest and grassroots organising in the United States from the 1960s onwards. Over the course of my stay, I was able to explore the papers of a diverse range of activists and organisations, many of which were locally—or community—based and have been hitherto understudied.

The Massachusetts Welfare Rights Organization Records, for example, provided a useful insight

into how the welfare rights movement developed at the local level, detailing how a Boston-based group called 'Mothers for Adequate Welfare' evolved to become the Massachusetts branch of the National Welfare Rights Organization. I also looked at the papers of 'Women for a Peaceful Christmas', a small, Madison-based group that staged a three-way protest of the Vietnam War, pollution, and Christmas season commercialisation by encouraging consumer boycotts and urging members to give ecological, handmade gifts instead. Meanwhile, the Juli Loesch Wiley Papers contained important information on Pro-lifers for Survival, an organisation founded by Wiley in 1979 as a bridge between anti-nuclear and anti-abortion groups. The opportunity to study these groups—and many others—in depth, provided a fresh insight into the diverse ways in which women during this era drew upon notions of motherhood and child protection, as well as how they grappled with the day-to-day realities of balancing political activism with the work of mothering. I was also frequently struck by the connections between these seemingly disparate groups, both in terms of the ideologies, rhetoric and tactics they espoused, and, at times, in terms of actual attempts to work together across differences of race and class. I have no doubt that the individuals and organisations I studied at the WHS will go on to form a seminal part of my PhD thesis. Furthermore, at the WHS, I had access to an impressive collection of national and local newspapers, and alternative publications, which enabled me to explore how both the mainstream media and the social movement press helped shape activists' gendered identities. I am also extremely grateful to all the archivists and staff at the WHS for their invaluable help and expertise throughout my time there.

As a visiting scholar in the Center for Research on Gender and Women, I also benefited from being part of a diverse and vibrant academic community. Over the course of my stay, I participated in a number of exciting conferences and events, including the 2011-12 Sawyer Seminar Series on Globalisation and the New Politics of Women's Rights. In March 2012, I also got the chance to present my own work at a conference on 'Gendered Borders and Queer Frontiers,' hosted by the Program of Gender and Women's History. This experience gave me a unique opportunity to discuss my ideas with leading scholars and fellow graduate students, while also introducing me to

new approaches and outlooks on my own research material.

Finally, my stay in Madison gave me the time to work on an article—based in part on my MA dissertation—exploring ideologies of motherhood within the welfare rights movement of the late 1960s and the anti-busing struggle of the early 1970s, primarily focusing on Boston. This article, entitled "Neither guns nor bombs—neither the state nor God—will stop us from fighting for our children": motherhood and protest in 1960s and 1970s America,' has since been accepted for publication in the December 2013 issue of *The Sixties: A Journal of History, Politics, and Culture*, and I would like to thank BAAS for providing me with the financial support that helped make this research possible.

Without the support of the John D. Lees Award, then, I would not have been able to access vital historical sources, meet prominent scholars in my field, or develop important new ideas and approaches. Nor, for that matter, would I have had the chance to sample Wisconsin's infamous fried cheese curds, go to my first college basketball game, walk across Madison's frozen Lake Mendota, or have any of the many encounters with mid-west life that made the research trip such an enjoyable and enriching experience! I would therefore like to express my sincere gratitude to BAAS for this generous award, and I hope to present some of my research findings at the 2013 BAAS conference.

Georgina Denton
(University of Leeds)

Funding Reports

‘Markets, Law, and Ethics, 1300-1850’

Department of History, University of Sheffield, 21-23 June 2012

This conference, sponsored by BAAS, the Economic History Society, and the University of Sheffield’s Faculty of Arts, considered the culture of the market—conceived broadly as the norms, laws, customs and practices of exchange, including buying and selling and lending and borrowing in the in the late medieval and early modern periods.

Presenters travelled from North America, Europe, and Australia and delivered thirty-one papers over the three days ranging. Paper topics ranged from “The paradox of market regulation in commercial cities of northern Europe, ca. 1300-1600,” (Martha Howell, Columbia University) to “Eighteenth-century Merchant’s Path to Wealth,” (Pierre Gervais, Université Paris 8). Tom Cutterham from Oxford University received support from the BAAS covering conference fees so he could deliver his paper, “Soldiers, statesmen, and stockjobbers: finance and land in post-revolutionary America.” Other papers on the history of the Americas included, “The Lifeblood of Commerce: The Concept of Circulation in Early American Currency Debates,” (Jeffrey Sklansky, University of Illinois at Chicago); “The Political Economy of Market Knowledge in the Early Modern Iberian Atlantic: Information and the Portobelo Trade Fair, 1580s-1620s,” (Patrick Funciello, George Washington University); and “Demonic Ambiguities: Enchantment and Disenchantment in Nathaniel Turner’s Virginia,” (Christopher Tomlins, University of California Irvine). A fine time was had by all and a follow-up meeting, special journal issue and volume of proceedings are planned.

Simon Middleton
(University of Sheffield)

The Scottish Association for the Study of America (SASA) Annual Conference

University of Glasgow, 17 March 2012

*Professor Simon Newman (University of Glasgow), conveys the following remarks about the success of this year’s annual SASA conference (–Ed).

“This was the largest SASA conference in some years, attracting just over 70 registrants. Thanks in part to the generous support of BAAS, registration for postgraduates was free (including lunch and refreshments), and we had postgraduate paper presenters from all over Scotland, as well as from other UK universities including Nottingham and Brunel. Just under three-quarters of those attending, and most of those presenting, were postgraduate students, and the SASA conference remains an excellent venue for postgraduate students to present their research, receive feedback, and discuss their work informally. The SASA prize for the best postgraduate paper was awarded to Stephanie Saint of the University of Aberdeen, for her excellent paper on Melville’s *Pierre*.”

European Association of American Studies (EAAS) Biennial Conference

Ege University Izmir, Turkey, 29 March–2 April 2012

*Postgraduate students Kristen Brill (University of Cambridge) and Rachel Williams (University of Nottingham) were both awarded BAAS bursaries to attend the EAAS Conference 2012. Here, they contribute a report on proceedings of the conference (–Ed).

The 2012 biennial European Association for American Studies (EAAS) conference was held on 29th March to 2nd April at Ege University in Izmir, Turkey. The conference theme, “The Health of the Nation,” could not have been more appropriate considering the current health care debates consuming the United States. Its delegates

represented the innovative and diverse Americanist scholarship presently being undertaken throughout the global community, offering perspectives from a wealth of nations spanning a grand total of six continents.

The conference included twenty-four workshops covering themes as varied and stimulating as environmental health, representations of aging, the trauma of 9/11, and economic inequality. The panels exploring nursing in American culture offered particularly nuanced, interdisciplinary approaches focusing on the juncture of literature, history and memory. Given the present sesquicentennial of the Civil War, several papers examined the history of nursing during the war as well as its enduring legacy in the popular imagination into the twentieth century. The workshop on health and disease in the nineteenth century used a range of historical and literary material to address questions of nation-building, the professionalisation and institutionalisation of medicine, and developing discourses about mental health. Several themes emerged that linked the papers in interesting ways, including yellow fever epidemics, debates over government health policy, and the contested role of women as care-givers.

The keynotes provided accounts and contexts of the “illness of the nation” and stimulated thoughtful and extensive discussion sessions: Ayşe Lahur Kirtunç (Ege University) spoke on the “Health and Stealth of the Nation”, discussing fears and concerns facing Turkish citizens today, BAAS Chair Martin Halliwell (Leicester) discussed alternative models of healthcare in the 1960s, such as the Free Clinic Project, and Alan Brinkley (Columbia) considered the Great Depression and its new significance in light of the current economic crisis. A volume of selected papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the *European Journal of American Studies*. The 2014 biennial EAAS conference will be held in The Hague, Netherlands and promises to be as intellectually fruitful as the recent gathering in Izmir.

Reports from Eccles Centre Fellows

Jesse Battan (California State University, Fullerton)

In a popular study of what came to be termed the “marriage crisis,” William E. Carson (*The Marriage Revolt*, 1915) described a brewing conflict between those who viewed marriage as an indissoluble bond that should be maintained “even when affection is destroyed and has been replaced by aversion or hatred,” and those who insisted that true marriages are based on a “natural bond of affection” and should be dissolved if this disappears. This question—was marriage an enduring and unchangeable legal and religious institution that should be preserved at all costs, or was it a malleable relationship based on feelings and created to realise the emotional and erotic happiness of the individual?—was long in the making and is central to my current book-length project, “Incompatible Bedfellows: Love and Freedom in Early Twentieth-Century America”. Carrying forward my previous work on nineteenth-century Free Lovers, “Incompatible Bedfellows” explores the marriage crisis by looking at the emergence of modern love and the companionate marriage in early twentieth-century America out of the ruins of Victorian ideas on love, sexuality and domestic life from several perspectives.

First, it examines the revolutionary projects and experiences of sexual radicals and social critics in the 1910s and 1920s (including socialists, anarchists, social critics, and cultural radicals) who believed that the transformation of private life—the creation of emotional ties characterised by autonomy, intimacy, equality, spontaneity, erotic passion and friendship—would at the same time lead to a revolution in political, social and economic relationships.

Second, it explores the connections between shifts in the programmes of sexual radicals and the large-scale changes in the intimate lives of working and middle-class Americans that have been associated with the “revolution in manners and morals” in the early twentieth century. These include the popularisation of the belief that erotic

and emotional self-expression (and the intimacy it created) alone justified the continuation of a marriage, increases in pre- and extra-marital sex, new styles of courtship, the new consumer culture's sexualisation of public life, the expanded choice of sexual partners that shattered class, race and same-sex taboos, and shifts in gender identities.

Third, drawing on recent work on the history of the family, gender and sexuality, my project places the efforts of these sexual radicals within the broader context of the history of love, sexuality, and marriage in the twentieth century and attempts to answer a series of related questions. What were the consequences—the emotional and social costs and benefits—of the rise of modern love and the companionate marriage? What happens when intimate relations, including those that structure marriage and family life, become less concerned with reproduction, the transmission of property, and the maintenance of public virtue and more preoccupied with self-realisation and the satisfaction of the erotic and emotional needs of the individual? Have the contradictory pursuits of autonomy and commitment, erotic fulfilment and intimacy, spontaneity and stability, and passion and compassion that are essential to modern love and the companionate marriage led to the unravelling of marriage in the twenty-first century, as some sociologists and historians have claimed? Or, as the sociologist Anthony Giddens has argued, has this quest led to the “generic restructuring of intimacy” and the creation of the “pure relationship” based on “sexual and emotional equality”?

One of the central figures of my project is John Armistead Collier, a labour activist and sexual radical, who met Françoise Lafitte, a French political and sexual radical living in Britain, at a “War Against War” rally in London in 1912. They subsequently formed a “free union.” Even though she was soon impregnated by Collier, however, the relationship was short lived. For a variety of telling reasons, which I will explore in my work, she chose to live the impoverished life of an unwed mother and after only a few months together she abruptly left him. Collier returned to the United States and Lafitte, after a failed marriage to Serge Cyon, a journalist and Russian national, subsequently became the common-law wife of Havelock Ellis and was transformed from Françoise Lafitte-Cyon to Françoise Delisle.

Early this year I began looking at the correspondence between Lafitte-Cyon and Collier held in the John and Phyllis Collier Papers at Wayne State University in the United States. This collection has copies of his letters to her but few of her letters to him. After piquing my interest in their relationship, I searched online for her papers and discovered that they are held in the Havelock Ellis collection at the British Library. Since the collection is extensive it became clear that it would be impossible to have Lafitte-Cyon's correspondence reproduced and sent to me. It was then that I came across the description of the Eccles Centre Visiting US Fellowships in North American Studies that offer support for a month-long stay in London to work at the British Library and applied for the award.

Once I arrived at the British Library and began going through Françoise's papers, however, I soon discovered that she did not save any of the correspondence between her and Collier. Fortunately, as I delved further into her correspondence I came across several illuminating references to Collier and their free union, usually as a negative shadow to her positive characterisations of Havelock Ellis as a lover and the idyllic relationship she created with him. In addition, as the reviewer of her autobiography *Friendship's Odyssey* noted in *The Times* of London in 1964, it became clear that “Françoise Delisle was no mere shadow cast by Ellis's brighter light. All her life she has been a highly original, vital character, interesting in her own right.” As the embodiment of the early twentieth-century's “New Woman,” Françoise's experiences are especially instructive. Her relationships with Collier, Cyon and Ellis offer fascinating insights into the central themes I am exploring in my work. Further, after going through her papers—the personal letters to and from Françoise and her friends and lovers, such as Hugh and Janet de Selincourt, Havelock Ellis, Margaret Sanger, and Alan Hull Walton; her professional correspondence with editors such as Vincent Long and Ellis' biographers such as John Stewart Collis, Arthur Calder-Marshall, Vincent Brome and Phyllis Grosskurth; and her unpublished essays and reviews that explored her ideas on love, sexuality and intimacy—I discovered a fascinating portrait of Françoise as someone who explored the issues that many early twentieth-century social and sexual radicals confronted in the United States, England, and Europe.

More to the point, Lafitte's ideas are important to my work because she carefully and consistently explores one of its central themes—the emergence of new forms of intimacy in the twentieth century and the problems they created. By placing love as the centrepiece of private relationships, and by insisting that such relationships provide the building blocks for a just society, she gave voice to the concerns of an international network of anarchists and pacifists who tied sexual freedom to larger issues such as the rights of women and the plight of labor. In spite (or perhaps because) of the increased demand for greater emotional and sexual honesty, equality and freedom, the relationship between men and women seemed to be characterised by what she described as “the clash of the sexes,” an unnatural conflict that reflected not only private unhappiness but that also shaped public disorder. Social injustice, poverty and war, she insisted, were the result of the disharmony between the sexes bred especially by the conflict between “lust and friendship.”

Further, while Françoise was an example of the ‘New Woman’ in the early twentieth century, this new woman was not just concerned with sexual freedom but also with the consequences of this freedom—the problems and perils of single motherhood. Her ideas on the nature of intimacy, passion, and friendship reflected new efforts to reconstruct private life. In hopes of resolving the problems created by the sexual and emotional disharmony between men and women her goal was to provide a women's perspective on the conflict. As she argued, defending why she explored her private life in print, “I aimed at portraying, beyond Havelock, the conflict of sexes as felt and lived by one woman. Men over and again express themselves on the subject, few women do. Several men, Havelock the most emphatic, impressed on me that woman should speak out likewise, stating her reactions to this problem in her private life and at large, and stating them woman's fashion, as felt woman's way.” Dealing with the impact of freedom in love on women, she explored issues such as eugenics, birth control, and the endowment of mothers by the state and private organisations to ensure their freedom from the petty tyrannies of patriarchal relationships. In short, the life and thoughts of Françoise Lafitte-Cyon not only reflect efforts to destroy the old emotional order but also reveal the problems and opportunities involved in the creation of the new.

Unlike the usual hit and run rush through collections that often characterises forays into research libraries shaped by time constraints, because of the generosity of the Eccles Centre Visiting US Fellow in North American Studies award I was able to carefully go through Françoise Lafitte-Cyon's papers as well as the relevant portions of Havelock Ellis' papers. His letters to Edward Carpenter were especially interesting, as were his notes on the incredibly odd and oddly influential physician and metaphysician, James Hinton. In addition, I was able to look at the Marie Stopes collection and examine correspondence between Stopes and the American birth control advocates Mary Ware Dennett and Margaret Sanger. My evaluation of Ellis' impact on Françoise's life and work also led to an examination of letters written to Ellis by early twentieth-century American sexual radicals, such as V. F. Calverton, which provide evidence of his impact on them as well. Finally, I was able to track down a few documents that are relevant to my work on late nineteenth-century Free Lovers, such as a letter from Lillian Harman to George Bernard Shaw as well as a photo of J. William Lloyd in one of Havelock Ellis' albums.

In closing I wish to thank Philip Davies, who graciously welcomed me to the British Library. Over coffee we discussed a range of topics, from the ins and outs of the BL to the fate of American Studies as a discipline and our common experiences of the 1960s in the United States. I also want to express my appreciation to the staff at the British Library who were unfailingly very kind and very helpful. The British Library is a truly amazing place.

Finally, I am extremely grateful to the British Association for American Studies, to Ian Bell and the other members of the Eccles Centre Visiting US Fellow in North American Studies award selection committee, to BAAS Treasurers Theresa Saxon and Sylvia Ellis, and to the Eccles Centre itself for the opportunity provided by the fellowship to explore collections that would have otherwise been inaccessible to me. By providing an international context for the issues I am exploring, the material I gathered at the British Library will greatly expand the scope of my work. It will also enrich the texture of my evidence and the complexity of the arguments I will make in my monograph and in the standalone article I will write on Françoise Lafitte-

Cyon as well. Equally important, coming at the end of my sabbatical, my time spent at the British Library (and in London) proved to be a wonderful capstone to my semester off. What I gained from my experience there has provided rich memories that make its conclusion easier to bear.

Andrew Lawson (Leeds Metropolitan University)

The aim of my visit to the British Library was to conduct research in primary sources for a new monograph, *Speculating on the Self: Manhood, Class, and the Market Revolution in America*. This project makes interdisciplinary connections between literary, cultural, and economic history in order to develop an understanding of the “post-patriarchal” character of the market economy, whose geographical displacements detached young men from the close supervision of parental figures or parental surrogates.

The Library’s resources provided a range of materials for assessing the origins and spread of the culture of financial speculation which began in the 1790s and forms part of the economic and social context for my account of how young men navigated the market in the 1830s. Particularly valuable were the extensive biographies of the New York speculator William Duer given in John Stancliffe Davis’s *Essays in the Earlier History of American Corporations* (1917) and Robert Abraham East’s *Business Enterprise in the American Revolutionary Era* (1938). It was extremely useful to have in one place the extensive writings of the Philadelphia physician, Benjamin Rush on the so-called “scriptomania,” the outbreak of speculative fever that greeted the first issue of federal government securities in 1791. Rush addressed this topic in a variety of works including his *Medical Inquiries and Observations Upon the Diseases of the Mind* (1812), a lecture, “Of Animal Life” (1799), and an essay, “Of the Different Species of Mania.” I was able to make use of the Library’s wide range of electronic resources, and follow up references to contemporary critiques of the speculative economy contained in James Sullivan’s, *The Path to Riches: An Inquiry into the Origin and Use of Money; and Into the Principles of Stocks and Banks* (Boston, 1792) and John Taylor’s *Enquiry into the Principle and Tendency of Certain Public Measures* (Philadelphia, 1794). A superb full-text database, America’s

Historical Newspapers (in Newsbank’s Archive of Americana), allowed me to trace the development of a Republican discourse on speculation in the Philadelphia *National Gazette and Literary Register*, and to track reports of the “scriptomania” in a wide range of New York, Boston, and Philadelphia newspapers.

The Library’s extensive holdings of advice books from the 1830s and 1840s allowed me to further my research into the antebellum culture of self-improvement, which attempted to provide young men with a means of resisting the temptations of the speculative economy. William Andros Alcott’s *The Young Man’s Guide* (1833), Charles Butler’s *The American Gentleman* (1836), and John Angell James’s *The Young Man From Home* (1840), provided me with evidence of the how self-improvement was tailored to provincial men of modest means about to embark on careers as clerks in the metropolis. These works are central to the formation of what I identify as “mercantile character,” equipping young men with a highly prudential identity focussed on the pursuit of rational self-interest, a discourse which reaches its apogee in T.S. Arthur’s *Advice to Young Men on Their Duties and Conduct in Life* (1847).

As the nation’s financial centre, New York provides one of the central topoi for this project, and one of the most important authors I consider is the New York writer Charles Frederick Briggs. Briggs’s novel, *The Adventures of Harry Franco* (1839), describes a young man’s travails in the city in the lead-up to the 1837 Panic. I was able to consult the series of humorous articles, “Gimcrackery,” that Briggs contributed under the Harry Franco pseudonym to the *Knickerbocker, or New York Monthly Magazine*, as well as Asa Greene’s novel, *The Perils of Pearl Street* (1834), which provides one of the earliest accounts of the city’s commercial practices and an influential exposure of confidence men and tricksters. It was particularly useful to have access to an important contemporary source on the commercial culture of New York, *Hunt’s Merchants’ Magazine and Commercial Review*, via Heinonline, which allowed searches for articles on both mercantile character and speculation in the antebellum period.

I am extremely grateful to BAAS and the Eccles Centre for providing me with the opportunity for a period of intensive research which has

substantially advanced this project, and allowed me to speculate on one version of the antebellum American self.

Kirsten MacLeod (University of Newcastle)

The Eccles Centre Visiting Fellowship in North American Studies provided an excellent opportunity to develop my book project *Archiving Modernism for America: Carl Van Vechten and the Arts*. Van Vechten was a figure who was engaged in many aspects of modernism across the arts as they emerged and were institutionalised in America from the 1910s to the 1960s: he was a dancer, music and literary critic; a fiction writer; a photographer; and a collector and founder of major collections. While I have already done significant research in Van Vechten's own archives, the fellowship provided me with the opportunity to develop a reading list and begin the very specialised background research required to understand these aspects of modernism beyond my expertise in literature and to catch up on current developments in relevant scholarship.

This included consulting monographs on the Harlem Renaissance; the history and practice of photography; the history of modern dance and modern music; collecting, archiving, and philanthropy; modernism and queer studies. The British Library's phenomenal collection of scholarly monographs meant that I could conduct this work quickly and efficiently. This research has enabled me to begin to plan a structure for my monograph and will be essential in enabling me to apply for leave time and funding to write the monograph. As an early career lecturer who is just getting used to the fast-paced intensive rhythm of academic life, I am extremely grateful to have had this lengthy and focused period to conduct this research. The library reading rooms offer just the right atmosphere for productive study. I am most thankful to the Eccles Centre for this fellowship, which has galvanised my thinking and renewed my enthusiasm for my research on Van Vechten.

Owen Stanwood (Boston College)

I was in residence at the British Library as the Eccles Visiting Professor of North American Studies between February and May 2012. I came to the BL to work on a project that is currently

entitled "Dreams of Silk and Wine: Huguenots in New Worlds, 1680-1776". The project concerns the role of French Protestant refugees in European imperial projects during the century after Louis XIV banned the practice of Protestantism in France in 1685. Thousands of Huguenots fled the kingdom, and many of them became active in British and Dutch imperial projects from colonial America to Ireland to the Cape of Good Hope and even the Indian Ocean. My study will be the first comprehensive global history of the Huguenot diaspora. Specifically, I am interested in the role of the state, most especially the nascent British state, in directing the movement of refugees around the empire and the world.

The BL provided the perfect place to research the British side of this global history. I wanted to see how British authorities and ordinary people dealt with the coming of the refugees. In addition, the BL houses a large number of original papers and published works created by the refugees themselves. I spent the bulk of my time in the Manuscripts Reading Room, where I consulted dozens of original manuscripts from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. I made a number of interesting discoveries in the BL and in general, filled in my understanding of the relationship between the refugees and the English/British state. For instance, my very first day at the BL I began examining a collection of materials by or about refugees from the early-1700s. There I discovered plans for a refugee-led assault on French Newfoundland, something I had never found reference to previously. This was merely one of dozens of interesting discoveries. I also found evidence that a leading Huguenot theologian, Pierre Jurieu, operated a ring of spies that operated around France during the 1690s. Finally, there were a number of interesting documents in the papers of the duke of Newcastle describing British attempts to settle the American interior, with the help of Huguenot refugees.

While most of my research at the BL concerned Huguenots in Britain, Ireland, and the colonies, my long residence at the library allowed me to follow the refugees into unlikely places. For instance, I found substantial evidence in the India Office Records of refugees settling in some of the East India Company's outposts—especially St. Helena, and perhaps Madras as well. This eastern migration allows me to move beyond the Atlantic

and tell a global story about the movement of refugees in the eighteenth century.

Finally, I spent a fair amount of time reading rare books and printed publications that are easier to access at the BL than at my home library. The most exciting discovery was a 1698 tract, *Proposals for Settling a Colony in Florida*, that has somehow never been added to any of the popular databases, and only exists at the BL. The tract is one of the more interesting (and ill-fated) proposals to use Huguenots to settle British America, and one that has received very little attention from scholars.

Overall, my time at the BL was extremely interesting and productive, and I also benefited from my close proximity to other libraries and archives in London as well as the city's academic community. Indeed, I made connections during my time as the Eccles Visiting Professor that will serve me well for the rest of my career. I am grateful to the Centre and to BAAS for supporting my research, and hope to visit again in the future.

Reports from Eccles Centre Postgraduate Fellows

Candela Delgado-Marín (University of Seville)

My experience as a postgraduate fellow at the Eccles Centre earlier this year has significantly improved my PhD thesis on silence as the backbone of Bobby Ann Mason's literary fiction. Mason is a Kentucky writer who has published short stories, five novels (*In Country*, *Feather Crowns*, *Spence + Lila*, *An Atomic Romance* and *The Girl in the Blue Beret*), and a memoir (*Clear Springs*). She has frequently published articles in various American newspapers and magazines such as *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*. Most of these publications deal with environmental controversy in her hometown state. Bobbie Ann Mason's first collection *Shiloh & Other Stories* won the P.E.N/Hemingway Prize in 1982. Her novel *Feather Crowns*, published in 1993, was awarded the *Southern Book Award for Fiction*. And last September, Mason was also honoured with *The Appalachian Writer's Heritage Award*. She is a "writer-in-residence" in the University of Kentucky and her last novel has just been published.

After having examined in detail all of the stories contained in Bobbie Ann Mason's five collections, I am studying silence in her work from different theoretical perspectives. Pragmatics and speech act theory provides the basis for a detailed analysis of inarticulacy in communicative exchanges among the characters. Feminist theories are employed to explore silence in relation to female characters' identities and gender relations. I also introduce a psychological approach to understand silence as a consequence of trauma, rebellion, fear, repression, isolation and diverse emotional distresses. Finally, and due to Mason's devotion to her original natural environment, the absence of words is revised through a thorough analysis of the Southern history, culture and society in relation to her work, where land and sociocultural artifacts intervene in her fiction as active participants that influence characters' emotions and communication. I argue that Mason's short stories

cannot be studied independently from their setting; the South is consequently an essential core of her writing.

Following reading historical analyses of the region from the colonial period through to the election of President Obama, I was able to complete a chapter of my thesis during my stay at the British Library. However, due to my literary approach, the historical study was constantly accompanied by stylistic and thematic analyses of southern literary production and the criticism it has received both from southern and northern researchers. These readings were essential in order to create a rich and detailed examination of Mason's stories within a framework of potential inspiration, formed by previous authors from the South and her connection in a network of contemporary writers. Mason's fiction is primarily concerned with white low middle-class men and women living in Kentucky. Mainly using a third person narrator, Mason offers an objective report of the situations, without providing absolute solutions to the characters' concerns and quandaries. Her realistic style is founded on complex characterisations, fluent and unexpected dialogues as well as abrupt and inconclusive endings. The characters discuss and reflect on topics such as death, loneliness, family, marriage, offspring, old age, cultural roots, retirement or nostalgia. Pain and fear are processed through sharp humour and understatements built upon peculiar similes between the object of dismay and mundane elements of their households and natural environment.

Commencing from an historical vantage has allowed me to establish the traces of historical events that function as plausible justifications for a determined presence of silence in this very specific southern context. In an initial approach to the literature of a Southern writer, the legacy of national identity clearly points towards an attachment to cultural, social and historical roots. Mason's characters find themselves either urged to escape a suffocating and limiting South, or fighting to reclaim their roots. Within these two extreme scenarios, Mason depicts another common character that endures his or her existence with apathy and resignation to the restrictions of this southern sense of transience.

During my research at the British Library, it was very beneficial to develop and share such ideas

with professors, postgraduates and writers at the British Library. I also attended a number of interesting events organised by the Eccles Centre. I am deeply grateful to the Eccles Centre, to BAAS, the British Library and, especially, Professor Philip Davies for his constant assistance, guidance, advice and generosity. My research stay was undoubtedly a productive and inspiring period that has greatly improved my PhD dissertation project.

David Doddington (University of Warwick)

Thanks to the generosity of the Eccles Centre I have been able to make use of the extensive collection of primary and secondary material on slavery and slave life in the antebellum South at the British Library, aiding me in the course of my final year of doctoral research. The trips I have made have been of immense value; the ability to access the most recent historical publications as well as the printed travel diaries and musings of antebellum writers has offered unique insights which have helped develop my doctoral project. My thesis explores the manner in which masculinity can be understood 'as a constantly changing collection of meanings' in the context of enslaved life in the antebellum south. Access to printed material from Southern writers (including Daniel Hundley, Joseph-Holt Ingraham, Charles Grandison Parsons and J. Mason Brewer) offering both pro-and-anti-slavery perspectives often heavily laced with masculinist implications, has allowed me to develop a more nuanced picture of gender in the period.

By combining and comparing the understandings of gender invoked by these Southern writers with the WPA collections that have made up a significant proportion of my research I have been able to more fully explore the multiplicity of masculine tropes that were invoked by actors within the antebellum South when constructing a gendered sense of self. This has allowed me more thoroughly interrogate how enslaved people were able to draw from a spectrum of potentially conflicting attributes and ideals in their construction of a male identity. Alongside my use of primary printed material at the British Library, I have also been extremely grateful at having had the opportunity to keep up with the latest secondary research on my topic, for example by making use of *New Men: New Manliness in Early*

America or Fathers, Preachers, Rebels, Men: Black Masculinity in U.S History and Literature, 1820-1945, both of which were published in 2011. With such publications coming at a time when I was still slogging away on my research, being able to access them almost immediately meant the fear that I was about to have to chop off a chapter (or more) was much easier to address! Thankfully, they have been of immense use and only increased my desire to work within the field of enslaved masculinities.

Overall, I would like to reiterate my thanks to the Eccles Centre at the British Library, as well as the British Association for American Studies for this research grant. The work I have undertaken as a result of this award has been integral to my doctoral research and I am extremely grateful for all of the support offered.

Ben Offler (University of Nottingham)

Thanks to the generosity of the Eccles Centre Postgraduate Award in North American Studies I have been able to make a number of research trips to the British Library over the course of 2011/12. Considering the number of resources relevant to my research at the Library, this award was gratefully received and gave me the opportunity to spend many fruitful days sifting through rare books and documents.

My research looks at the foreign policy of the United States towards Iran between 1961 and 1972, focusing in particular upon the demise of modernisation theory's influence in the bilateral relationship. The main two resources at the British Library that I utilised were the Digital National Security Archive and the Declassified Documents Reference System. Both of these contain thousands of declassified official United States government documents, predominantly from the Department of State but also the Agency for International Development and Department of Defence. The fact that both of these are digitally available at the British Library makes them an incredibly useful set of sources; it is easy to search for documents, using keywords and date ranges to narrow down the results, as well as being able to specify what type or classification of document one is searching for. This made them extremely easy to explore. Indeed, the range of material they provide on a number of US foreign policy subjects shows them to be, if not quite an alternative, then at least

a valuable supplement to archival research in the United States. Considering recent economic developments in higher education funding in the United Kingdom, particularly for postgraduate researchers, having access to thousands of official US government documents within relatively easy reach is likely to become of even greater value. I found dozens of documents that have provided insight into the questions central to my thesis.

Among the other primary resources I investigated at the British Library were the historical archives of a number of major American newspapers, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *L.A. Times*. Although my research focuses upon US policymakers and their decision-making processes, these newspapers have allowed me to gain a sense of how the decisions made in the White House and State Department were received and perceived by the wider American public.

Unsurprisingly given its magnitude, at the Library I was also able to make use of a good number of fairly rare books pertaining to US-Iranian relations and Iranian history. To spare from the tedium of citing all the books I looked at (whose authors included American historians such as James Bill, Iranian scholars such as Abbas Milani and the memoirs of Iranian political figures such as Fereydoon Hoveyda) I will mention the one that I found most interesting, useful and surprising: *The Shah and I: The Confidential Diary of Iran's Royal Court, 1968-1977* by Asadollah Alam. The author of these diaries, Alam, was a close friend of the Shah of Iran and served as Iran's Prime Minister before becoming Minister of the Royal Court. During the period covered in this book, Alam kept a reasonably meticulous diary, which detailed both his own activities and that of the Shah. It provides an indispensable insight into the concerns and decisions of the Shah at a key time in US-Iranian relations. Some care of course needs to be taken when reading Alam's diaries, but they give a flavour of Iranian political and court life as well as a window on international issues looking from the Iranian side out.

Overall I had a wonderful time conducting research at the British Library and encourage others to explore what resources it has to offer. The Library itself is an excellent place to study and it is worth mentioning that it is enhanced further by the many exhibitions that provide a distraction to one's research. I was lucky enough to coincide my early

trips with a fantastic exhibition on the literature of science fiction set up by the Eccles Centre. The question remains how I incorporate the work of luminaries like Arthur C. Clarke into my research on US relations with Iran. Finally, I would like to express my sincerest thanks to the Eccles Centre, the BAAS, Ian Bell, Philip Davies and Theresa Saxon for this award and their support.

New Members

Aurelie Basha is a PhD candidate in the International History department at the London School of Economics. Her PhD looks at the withdrawal plans from the Vietnam War under the Kennedy and Nixon administrations. Her research interests also include Cold War defence policy and US foreign policy more broadly. She was a Fulbright Scholar at Harvard Kennedy School from 2004 to 2006.

Janine Bradbury is a member of staff and a part-time PhD student at the University of Sheffield researching connections between race, class and passing narratives in contemporary American fiction. An American Studies graduate (who spent her year abroad in Chapel Hill, North Carolina), Janine undertook a Masters Degree in American Literature at Sheffield before starting work on her doctoral thesis. She teaches part-time on undergraduate modules, coordinates the university's postgraduate 'Race Research Network' and holds administrative posts in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and in Recruitment and Outreach. Until July 2012, Janine is also a Project Officer on a funded scheme which uses African American literature to raise the aspirations and attainment of young black and minority ethnicity schoolchildren in the Sheffield area.

Adam Burns teaches History and Politics at Marlborough College in Wiltshire.

Samuel Clarke is a final year undergraduate student in English Literature at the University of Warwick with aspirations for a career in academia. Samuel's research interests centre primarily around twentieth and twenty-first century North American literature and culture. He plans to focus his future research on issues of gender, particularly relating to space and landscape.

Robert Cook is Head of American Studies at the University of Sussex and currently working on a study of American Civil War memory. His last book was *Civil War Senator: William Pitt Fessenden and the Fight to Save the American Republic* (LSU Press, 2011).

Martin Dines is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at Kingston University and author of *Gay Suburban Narratives in American and*

British Culture: Homecoming Queens (Palgrave, 2009). He is a researcher in Kingston's Centre for Suburban Studies, and is a partner in the Leverhulme Trust funded 'Suburban Cultures Interdisciplinary Network' (2011-14), which brings together researchers in the field of suburban studies based in the UK, Ireland, the US, South Africa and Australia. He co-organised 'Peripheral Visions: Suburbs, Representation and Innovation', an international conference held at Kingston University in 2011, and with Tim Vermeulen (University of Nijmegen) he is co-editing an anthology which examines new forms of creative production which have arisen from and in response to emerging and changing suburbs across the globe.

Zara Dinnen is a PhD candidate and Associate Teacher in the Department of English and Humanities, Birkbeck, researching representations of the digital in contemporary American culture. She has articles and reviews published or forthcoming in *Journal of Narrative Theory*, *ImageText*, *Journal of American Studies* and *Textual Practice*. Zara is co-founder/convener of the 'Contemporary Fiction Seminar' at the Institute of English Studies and Reviews Editor at the graduate journal *Dandelion*.

Andrea Franzius is a former Mellon Research Fellow in American History at the University of Cambridge who holds a PhD in American History from Duke University and has taught American History and American Studies at the Universities of Cambridge, Sussex, and Aberdeen. Andrea's research focuses on the intersection of culture with race relations, politics and ideology in twentieth-century America. Andrea's publications include 'Forging Music into Ideology: Charles Seeger and the Politics of Cultural Pluralism in American Domestic and Foreign Policy' in *Amerikastudien/ American Studies* 56.3 (2011) and a forthcoming book entitled *Why Should the Devil Have All the Good Tunes: Music in 20th Century American Domestic and Foreign Policy*.

Stephanie Fuller is a PhD student at the University of East Anglia based in the school of Film and Television studies. Her research focuses on representations of the US and Mexico and the border between the two countries in 1940s and 1950s Hollywood cinema.

Arin Keeble is an early career scholar specialising in the cultural and literary representation of crisis, disaster and terrorism, with a specific focus on

9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. Arin has published three peer-reviewed articles on the cultural response to 9/11 and is presently working on a new project about the literary/cultural response to Hurricane Katrina. Arin is a teaching assistant at Newcastle but is looking for a permanent post in the UK.

Gavan Lennon is a PhD student at the University of Nottingham researching representations of segregated towns in mid-twentieth century southern fiction.

Rachael McLennan is a Lecturer in American Literature and Culture at the School of American Studies, University of East Anglia. Rachael researches and publishes in the areas of adolescence, American autobiography, and Anne Frank in American literature and culture. Rachael is the author of *Developing Figures: Adolescence, America and Postwar Fiction* (Palgrave, 2009), and the forthcoming *American Autobiography* (Edinburgh University Press, 2012).

Maja Milatovic is pursuing a PhD in English Literature at the University of Edinburgh. Maja's thesis focuses on the marked body in African American women writers' neo-slave narratives. Maja is currently researching concepts and critiques of white privilege in African American women's writing and Audre Lorde's feminist vision.

Daniel Morse has just completed a PhD in English Literature at the University of Edinburgh. His research focuses on fiction written by late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century transatlantic immigrants and examines the influence of US immigration policy, religious orthodoxy, consumerism, and gender stereotypes on identity construction.

Erik Nielson is an Assistant Professor at the School of Professional and Continuing Studies, the University of Richmond, USA.

Susannah North is a History Teacher at Horsforth School, a successful comprehensive in Leeds. She currently teaches about America at 'A2' level, and has joined BAAS to expose her students to the Association's competitions and source materials.

Andrew Preston is a Senior Lecturer in History at Clare College, Cambridge.

Steven Reilly playfully refers to himself as a "gifted and talented co-ordinator" in his BAAS profile. He is otherwise Head of History

at the British School in Tokyo where his team is launching an 'A'-level History in 2012. Representative topics include 'Challenging British Dominance: the Loss of the American Colonies, 1754 to 1783'.

Eleanor Spencer (BA MA Dunelm) is currently a Frank Knox Fellowship funded Visiting Fellow in the Department of English at Harvard University. Her primary area of interest is twentieth century American poetry and poetics, particularly poetry written since 1945. She also works on American and British poetic tradition, and Anglo-American or trans-Atlantic poetics.

Andrew Stodolny is Head of Government and Politics at The Grammar School at Leeds. He teaches 'A2' US Politics and 'A2' American Civil Rights History and runs regular field trips to Washington, New York, and Alabama for his students. His main area of interest is African American social and political history in relation to Alabama, particularly during the first half of the twentieth century. Andrew read Modern History at Oriel College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1981.

Alicja Syska is an Associate Lecturer in US History at Plymouth University. She received her PhD in American Studies from Saint Louis University, USA. Her scholarly interests include US national identity, politics of race and gender, and American visual culture. She has published in European and US journals and is currently working on W.E.B. DuBois's nationalistic project.

John Tiplady is a PhD candidate at the University of Nottingham exploring the relationship of the anti-Stalinist socialist Left with the US federal government during the early Cold War. John's work involves an analysis of government legislation, including the Smith Act (1941), the Federal Employee Loyalty Program and Attorney General's Subversive List (1947), and the McCarran Act (1950), which adversely affected the activities of anti-Stalinist organisations and individuals.

David Walker is Associate Dean and Head of Humanities at Northumbria University with research interests in early modern English Literature and the history and literature of colonial America and the American Revolution.

Ksenia Wesolowska is a PhD student in the History Department at the University of Nottingham, researching US mediation efforts in the Arab-Israeli conflict between 1967-1979.

Chris Witter completed a BA in English Literature at Lancaster University, and an MA in English Literature at the University of Nottingham. He is presently a third year PhD student—supervised by Brian Baker—at Lancaster University, researching American short fiction in the 1960s and 70s. Chris was awarded an AHRC/Kluge Center Scholarship in 2010/11, which allowed him to undertake three months of research at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Chris's research interests include twentieth century American history; the history of the left in the US; the new left, feminist, civil rights and black power movements; modernist and postmodernist literature and art; theories of modernity and postmodernity; historical materialism, Marxist theories of economics, ideology, hegemony, and social formations; literary and critical theory; theories of textuality; and, contemporary politics.

Elena Woolley is a PhD candidate studying American cinema in the Film Studies Department of King's College London. Her thesis examines the spectatorship of death in different genres of (primarily post-classical/post ratings code) American cinema.

Awards Opportunities

BAAS Honorary Fellowship

This Fellowship recognises American Studies academics who have made an outstanding contribution to the association, to their institution(s), and to the American Studies community in general over the course of a distinguished career. Closing date for **confidential** nominations: December 3, 2012 (no self-nominations).

BAAS Book Prize

This £500 prize will be awarded for the best published book in American Studies this year. To be eligible for the 2012-13 BAAS Book Prize, books must have been published in English between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. To be eligible for consideration authors must be members of BAAS at the time of nomination. Closing date: December 7, 2012.

BAAS Founders' Research Travel Awards

Named after the founders of BAAS, these awards offer assistance for short-term visits to the United States during the year 2013-14 to scholars in the UK who need to travel to conduct research, or who have been invited to read papers at conferences on American Studies topics. To be eligible, applicants must be members of BAAS. Closing date for applications: December 7, 2012.

BAAS Postgraduate Short-Term Travel Awards

A number of short-term awards of up to £750 each for travel between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014 are available to postgraduates at UK institutions of higher education. Preference will be given to those who have had no previous opportunities for research-related visits to the USA. Some of the travel grants relate to named awards: *The Malcolm Bradbury Award* (for the best proposal in American literary studies); *The Marcus Cunliffe Award* (American Studies); *The John D. Lees Award* (American political studies); *The Abraham Lincoln Award* (nineteenth-century US history and culture); *The Peter Parish Award* (American history). To be eligible, applicants must be members of BAAS; a preferential rate is

available to postgraduate students. Closing date: December 7, 2012.

BAAS Postgraduate Essay Prize

This annual prize (£500) is awarded for the best essay-length piece of work on an American Studies topic written by a student currently registered for a postgraduate degree at a Higher Education institution in the UK. Essays should be 3000 – 5000 words in length. Closing date: January 14, 2013.

BAAS Monticello Teachers' Fellowships

BAAS, in conjunction with the Thomas Jefferson Foundation (TJF) and the International Center for Jefferson Studies (ICJS), is delighted to announce an award for teachers who cover the American Revolution, the Constitution and related materials in their A Level or Advanced Higher teaching of history and politics. Closing date: December 3, 2012.

MA Graduate Teaching Assistantships at the University of New Hampshire and the University of Wyoming

The MA Graduate Teaching Assistantships, starting in August 2013, will provide income for two years and a MA fee waiver. Further details will be available from the BAAS website from September 2012. Closing date: December 3, 2012.

The Arthur Miller Centre Prizes

The Arthur Miller Centre (UEA) makes two annual awards of £500 for the best first book published in the preceding calendar year and the best journal length article on any American Studies topic in the preceding calendar year. Those interested in entering an article or a book should see the BAAS website for further particulars and deadlines. Please note books should not be entered for both the BAAS Book Prize and the Arthur Miller First Book Prize.

Eccles Centre Prizes

The Eccles Centre for American Studies at the British Library annually offers a wide range of Visiting Professorships, Fellowships and

Postgraduate Awards. The Awards are intended to help support scholars who need to visit London to use the British Library's collections relating to North America. Closing date: January 31, 2013. For further information, please see www.bl.uk/ecclescentre

The Ambassador's Awards

The Annual Ambassador's Awards comprise three prizes: for Postgraduates, Undergraduates and a School Essay prize. The judging panel are seeking essays that explore any aspect of the American experience, from the perspective of history, literature, film, politics or any other related or inter-related discipline. Please see the BAAS website (from September 2012) for specific details of each award. Closing date: January 14, 2013.

Fellowship Opportunities

Smithsonian Fellowship Opportunities in American Art

The Smithsonian American Art Museum and its Renwick Gallery invite applications for research fellowships in art and visual culture of the United States. A variety of predoctoral, postdoctoral, and senior fellowships are available. Fellowships are residential and support independent and dissertation research. The stipend for a one-year fellowship is \$30,000 for predoctoral fellows or \$45,000 for senior and postdoctoral fellows, plus generous research and travel allowances. The standard term of residency is twelve months, but shorter terms will be considered; stipends are prorated for periods of less than twelve months. Deadline: January 15, 2013. Contact: Fellowship Office, American Art Museum, (202) 633-8353, AmericanArtFellowships@si.edu. For information and an application, visit www.AmericanArt.si.edu/fellowships.

Publication Opportunities

CFP: The Terra Foundation for American Art International Essay Prize

The Terra Foundation for American Art International Essay Prize recognises excellent scholarship by a non-U.S. scholar in the field of historical American art (circa 1500-1980). Manuscripts should advance understanding of American art, demonstrating new findings and original perspectives. The prize-winning essay will be translated and published in *American Art*, the Smithsonian American Art Museum's scholarly journal. We are pleased to announce an increased and enhanced prize award this year: the winner will receive a \$1,000 cash award and a \$2,000 travel stipend to give a presentation in Washington, D.C., and meet with museum staff and fellows. This prize is supported by funding from the Terra Foundation for American Art.

The aim of the award is to stimulate and actively support non-U.S. scholars working on American art topics, foster the international exchange of new ideas, and create a broad, culturally comparative dialogue on American art. Ph.D. candidates and above are eligible to participate in the competition. Essays may focus on any aspect of historical American art and visual culture (pre-1980). Preference will be given to studies that address American art within a cross-cultural context and offer new ways of thinking about the material. A strong emphasis on visual analysis is encouraged. Manuscripts previously published in a foreign language are eligible if released within the last two years (please state the date and venue of the previous publication). For scholars from English-language countries, only unpublished manuscripts will be considered. Authors are invited to submit their own work for consideration. We urge scholars who know of eligible articles written by others to inform those authors of the prize.

The length of the essay (including endnotes) shall not exceed 8,500 words with approximately 12 to 14 illustrations. The text of the essay should be submitted by e-mail as a Word file, accompanied by a PDF file containing all of the illustrations. A curriculum vitae should be included. Manuscripts submitted in foreign languages should be

accompanied by a detailed abstract in English. The submissions must be sent to **TerraEssayPrize@si.edu** by January 15, 2013. Questions or comments may be addressed to the same address.

For more information on American Art, please consult **www.americanart.si.edu/research/journal**. For details on the Terra Foundation for American Art, please visit **www.terraamericanart.org**.

CFP: Literature Compass

Literature Compass (<http://www.literature-compass.com>) is the largest and most rigorously peer-reviewed electronic journal in literary studies with 18 international Section Editors and 140 Board members. The ideal Compass article offers a critical intervention in the field or sub-field, mapping its present state and plotting the direction our authors wish to take it in the future. Articles are typically between 5000-6000 words in length with an additional 1000-2000 word bibliography. If you would like to contribute to the American Literature section of Compass please forward a short proposal (200-300 words) to:

Dr Brian Jarvis (**b.jarvis@lboro.ac.uk**)
Senior Lecturer in American Literature and Film
Associate Dean for Teaching
School of the Arts, English & Drama
Loughborough University.

For further information, visit: **<http://literature-compass.com/american-literature>**.

BAAS Membership of Committees

BAAS Membership of Committees (including co-opted members and invited observers)

Executive Committee

elected:

Professor Martin Halliwell (Chair, first elected 2010, term ends 2013)
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Professor Bridget Bennett (first elected 2012, term ends 2015)

Dr. Michael Bibler (first elected 2012, term ends 2014)

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p/grad Ms. Zalfa Feghali (first elected 2010, term ends 2012)*
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Dr. Sara Wood (Birmingham Conference Organiser, 2014)

Mr. Gareth Hughes (Teachers' Representative, term ends 2013)

Observer: Mr. Richard Martin (BAAS Intern, 2011-2012)

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Mr. Gareth Hughes (Teachers'
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BAAS representative to EAAS

Professor Philip Davies (terms ends 2012)*
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*Indicates this person not eligible for re-election to
this position.

† 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–

