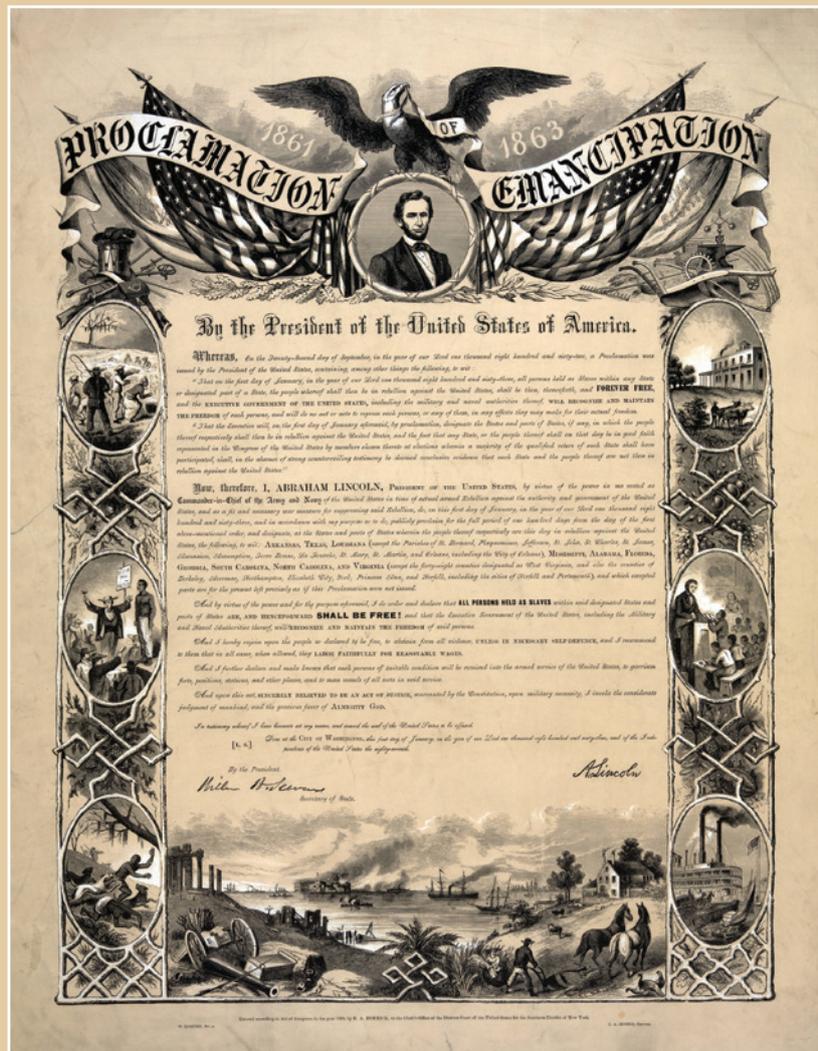




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American Studies in Britain

Newsletter of the British Association for American Studies



BAAS Executive
Vacancies

An Interview with
Mick Gidley

Provisional Programme
for the 58th BAAS
Annual Conference

In Memory of
Susan Manning

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

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Cover: Photograph of a reproduction of the Emancipation Proclamation. Circa 1864.

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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

In a poignant song entitled ‘Telling Stories’, Tracy Chapman draws attention to the personal fiction which tends to enter the gap between actual events and their recollections. Historians know a related problem. In accounting for a past not personally experienced, evidence is assembled for its reconstruction. And yet, since evidence in this context requires interpretation—some imagining—the history we ‘make’ is but a collection of versions. In framing the recent anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, two pre-eminent versions of Lincoln come to mind. On the one hand there is the heroic Lincoln who ‘freed the slaves’ and is celebrated in Spielberg’s latest film and the popular imagination. On the other, there is the Lincoln who abolished slavery for militarily strategic—not specifically moral—reasons, a figure whose singular veneration obscures contributions by the many, not least abolitionists such as Douglass and Stowe, but also the heroic slaves who were never passive spectators to their ‘salvation’. Speaking to the editor in this issue’s *ASIB* interview, BAAS Honorary Fellow Mick Gidley suggests that it “would be simplistic to deny [Lincoln] heroic status.” I should like to put it another way. Perhaps in rejecting the critical dualism—Lincoln as individual emancipator pitted against collective self-emancipators—there is an opportunity to recognise the greater persuasiveness of the combination. In a sense, yes: a racist, flawed Lincoln did something heroic, and not in lieu of collective participation, but next to, and enabled, by it. To venerate a singular ‘Great Emancipator’ may be as reductive as dismissing the significance of Lincoln’s *actions*. Who he was as a man, no one of us can ever really know. So it is that the version of Lincoln we keep is also the version we make.

From Lincoln to community news, the editor should like to point readers to a number of positions on the BAAS Executive Committee, which traditionally fall vacant in the Spring. This year, however, also marks the election of a successor for our Chair, Martin Halliwell, who has led the Association over the past three years. Since BAAS is an evolving organisation, there are also a number of updates to be found in the ‘BAAS Membership of Committees’ section in this issue of *ASIB*, including contact details for the new Membership

Secretary, Rachael McLennan, as well as our new postgraduate representative, Jon Ward. This April also sees the 58th BAAS Annual Conference, hosted at the University of Exeter. The organisers—Jo Gill, Sineád Moynihan and Paul Williams—have contributed a provisional programme that includes an intriguing range of papers, underlining, as ever, the diversity of scholarship, and scholars, connected to the Association today. A report of the thriving BAAS Annual Postgraduate Conference is also printed herein. The aforementioned editor’s interview with Mick Gidley begins on page 20, and, in closing, I wish to point to an elegant tribute to the late Susan Manning contributed by Andrew Taylor (University of Edinburgh).

This issue of *ASIB* is dedicated to those who fought, and fight, for emancipation.

– Kal Ashraf

**The 58th BAAS
Annual Conference
University of Exeter**



18-21 April 2013

**Provisional Programme
– Subject to Change**

Thursday, 18 April

2.00 – 5.15: Registration (Queen's MR1, 2 and 3)

3.00 – 4.15: BAAS Libraries and Resources
Subcommittee (BLARS) (Queen's LT2)

4.15 – 4.45: Tea/Coffee and Biscuits (Queen's
MR1, 2 and 3)

4.45 – 5.15: PBS America Presentation (Queen's
LT2)

5.30 – 6.30: Welcome from Vice Chancellor,
Professor Sir Steve Smith, and Plenary (Peter Chalk
Centre-Newman A)

Plenary, sponsored by the *Journal of American
Studies*:

Anders Stephanson, Andrew and Virginia Rudd
Family Foundation Professor of History (Columbia
University)

6.45 – 7.45: Drinks Reception: Hosted by PBS
America (PCC)

5.30 – 7.30: Late Registration (PCC)

8.00 – 10.00: Dinner (Holland Hall)

10.00 – 11.00: Drinks (Holland Hall Bar)

Friday, 19 April

7.30 – 9.00: Breakfast (Holland Hall, for those
staying on campus)

9.00 – 10.30: SESSION A

**Panel A1: American Imperialism
in the Late Nineteenth and Early
Twentieth Centuries (Queen's 4.1)**

Chair: Joe Smith (University of Exeter)

Nick Cleaver (University of East Anglia),
"Wagging the Dog: The Influence of American
Representatives Overseas on the Evolution of US
Foreign Policy in the Late 19th Century"

Henry Knight (University of Northumbria),
"Our New Possessions': Murat Halstead and the
Promotion of American Tropical Expansion after
the Spanish-American War"

Patrick M. Kirkwood (Central Michigan
University), "Lord Cromer's Shadow: Anglo-
Saxonism and The Influence of the Egyptian
Protectorate as a Model in the American
Philippines, 1900-1913"

**Panel A2: Hip Hop in the Twenty-
First Century (Queen's 6.2)**

Chair: Barry Shanahan (University College Dublin)

Eithne Quinn (University of Manchester), "Spit
Truth to Power?: Occupy Wall Street and New
York's Hip-hop Moguls"

Tara Morrissey (University of Sydney), "Basic
Bitches: White Girls and Hip Hop in 21st Century
America"

Eric Nielson (University of Richmond), "What
Happened to Hip Hop and Obama?"

Panel A3: Religion and American Politics, Past and Present (Queen's 6.1)

Chair: TBC

Janiece Johnson (University of Leicester), "Morman Savagery and the 1857 Mountain Meadows Massacre"

Brant Ellsworth (Penn State, Harrisburg), "This is Still the Place: The 1897 Pioneer Jubilee and the Construction of an American Religion"

Christopher Trigg (University of Toronto), "Bureaucracy in America: Reading Ryan's Budget with Agamben"

Panel A4: U.S.-Haiti Literary Relations (Queen's 1B)

Chair: Rachel Farebrother (University of Swansea)

David Cox (University of Swansea), "'A Haiti in the Heart of the United States': White Intellectuals and Black Folk Culture during the Gilded Age"

James Harding (University of Sussex), "Bad Debts: Faulkner, Haiti and the Hoard"

Serena Volpi (Brunel University), "'Ethnographers in a Footnote': Zora Neale Hurston and Katherine Dunham in the Caribbean"

Panel A5: American Literature in the Mid-Nineteenth Century (Queen's 1C)

Chair: Michael Collins (University of Kent)

Katie McGettigan (Keele University), "'This curious paper-rag': Melville's *Pierre* and the Ambiguities of Paper"

Dana Medoro (University of Manitoba), "Probing Zenobia: Abortion and Murder in Hawthorne's *Blithedale Romance*"

David Greenham (University of the West of England), "'The Abyss of Real Being': Emerson's Concept of Compensation"

Panel A6: Literature of the Cold War Period (Queen's 1G)

Chair: TBC

Antonia Mackay (Oxford Brookes University), "The Influence of Architecture in Cold War Literature"

Sarah Daw (University of Exeter), "Nature vs. Nuclear in the Cold War American West: The Writings of Peggy Pond Church"

Jennifer Daly (Trinity College Dublin), "Deceptive Narratives in *Revolutionary Road*: Questioning the Reality of a Masculinity Crisis"

Panel A7: Ideologies, Old and New (Queen's 1H)

Chair: TBC

Jean-Daniel Collomb (Université Jean Moulin, Lyon), "The Ideology of Climate Denial in the United States"

Philip Leonard (Nottingham Trent University), "November 20, 1998; Dawn"

Pawel Laidler (Jagiellonian University, Krakow), "50 Years after *Gideon v. Wainwright*: The Current Interpretation of the Procedural Due Process Rights of the American People"

Panel A8: The Sixties (Queen's F)

Chair: Jo Gill (University of Exeter)

David McCarthy (University of East Anglia), "'Often I am Permitted to Respond': The Ethics of the Border in Robert Duncan's *The Opening of the Field*"

Brian Ireland (University of Glamorgan), "Journeys to the East: the Hippie Trail c.1957-1979"

Rory McGinley (University of Glasgow), "Re-enacting Suburbia In Richard Yates's *Revolutionary Road*"

Panel A9: Race and the Reorganisation of Knowledge: Style, Genre, and Canon Formation in the Postwar United States (Queen's 4.2)

Chair: Jon Ward (University of East Anglia)

Daniel Matlin (King's College, London), "Harlem meets Haarlem: Race and Representation in the Art of Romare Bearden, 1946-1964"

Andrew Fearnley (Edge Hill University), "The Black Panther Party's Publishing Strategies and the Fluctuating Genres of Black Life, 1968-1975"

Ian Evans (University of Nottingham), "Firing Loose Canons: African American Literary Culture and the Problem of Canon Formation"

10.30 – 11.00: Coffee (Queen's MR1/2/3 + Foyer)

11.00 – 12.30: SESSION B

Panel B1: Looking through the Lens of Community: A Re-examination of the "Loyalists" of the American Revolutionary War (Queen's 4.1)

Chair: TBC

Christopher Minty (University of Stirling), "Dose This Constitute Me As An Enemy To My Cuntry?": Frederick Rhinelander And The Rationale Of Revolution"

Bonnie Huskins (St. Thomas University), "Freemasonic Lodges as Sources of Social Capital in Loyalist Shelburne Nova Scotia"

Christopher Sparshott (Northwestern University, Qatar), "The Politics of Unintended Consequences: Popular Loyalism in New Jersey, 1776-1777"

Panel B2: Screening 9/11 and the War on Terror (Queen's 6.2)

Chair: TBC

Kerem Bayraktaroglu (University of Exeter), "The Portrayal of Muslim Children in U.S Cinema Post 9/11"

Jenna Pitchford-Hyde (University of East Anglia), "I'm a Muslim': The Iraq Wars, 'Anti-Americanism' and Marginality"

Nawel Sebih (Laboratory of LISAA, University of Paris Est.), "The Gaping Hole in the Cinematic Representations of Trauma"

Panel B3: U.S. Presidents and Foreign Policy (Queen's 6.1)

Chair: Sylvia Ellis (Northumbria University)

Jan Pajor (University of Łódź), "Woodrow Wilson and the decision to withdraw from the Chinese Reorganization Loan"

Ben Offler (University of Nottingham), "Another Special Relationship? Richard Nixon and the Shah of Iran, 1969-1972"

James Farror (Cardiff Metropolitan University), "Transatlantic Diplomacy during the Cold War: The Case of the Carter Presidency"

Panel B4: Slavery and Abolition (Queen's 1B)

Chair: Celeste-Marie Bernier (University of Nottingham)

Anne-Claire Levy (University Paris 3 - Sorbonne Nouvelle / Paris Diderot), "'God Exercises a Moral Government over the Nations': William Goodell, the Liberty Party and Bible Politics"

Clare Elliott (Northumbria University), "Racism to Revolution: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Daniel Webster and John Brown, 1840-1859"

Jenni Lewis (Bath Spa University), "Toward a Phenomenology of Literacy: The Rhetoric of Embodiment in Frederick Douglass's *Narrative*"

Panel B5: Sound and Silence in Literature and Film, 1950s-1970s (Queen's 1C)

Chair: TBC

Robert W. Jones II (University of Leicester), "Body is Evidence of the Film: William S. Burroughs and the Post War Avant-garde"

Ruth Farrar (University of Exeter), "From Bristol to Brooklyn: In Search of Soundmarks"

Loni Reynolds (University of Roehampton), "'Soundless Words': Kenosis, Silence and Meaninglessness in J. D. Salinger's 'Franny'"

Panel B6: New Orleans Literature and Culture (Queen's 1G)

Chair: Helen Taylor (University of Exeter)

Nicole Willson (University of East Anglia), "Old-World Creolism in the American Imagination, or, Reading Creole as Black"

Artemis Michailidou (Hellenic Military Academy), "'Dizzily gay yet inhospitable': New Orleans in the work of John Gregory Brown"

Connie Zeanah Atkinson (University of New Orleans), "'My City In Ruins': Tourism in Post-Disaster New Orleans, Louisiana"

Panel B7: America in the Digital Age (Queen's 1H)

Chair: TBC

Spencer Green (Penn State, Harrisburg), "Digital Tracks on the Appalachian Trail"

Javad Alipoor (University College Dublin), "U.S. Virtual Public Diplomacy towards Iran"

Chris Pallant (Canterbury Christ Church University), "Animating America: *Red Dead Redemption* (2010) – Game Structure and Game Surface"

Panel B8: Occupy Wall Street (Queen's F)

Chair: TBC

Alfred Cardone (King's College, London), "Soldiers, in the Name of Democracy, Let Us All Unite!': The Tea Party, the Occupy Movement, and Neo-Populism"

Peter Nikolaus Funke (University of South Florida), "Class In-Formation: The Intersection of Old and New Media in Contemporary Social Movement Activism in the U.S."

Catalina Neculai (Coventry University), "The Rhetoric and Politics of Spatial Scale: Occupy Wall Street and the 1980s Housing Movements"

Panel B9: American Childhoods (Queen's 4.2)

Chair: TBC

Philip Levy (University of South Florida), "In the Shadow of the Cherry Tree: Landscape, Storytelling, and George Washington's Childhood"

Maria Holmgren Troy (Karlstad University, Sweden), "Fairy Tales by Three American Nineteenth-Century Writers: Richard Henry Stoddard, Horace E. Scudder, and Elizabeth Stoddard"

Angela Sparks (University of Hertfordshire), "The Land Speaks: Myth, Magic and Land in Indigenous Fiction for Children"

12.30 – 1.30: LUNCH (Peter Chalk Centre)

POSTGRAD LUNCH (Queen's SCR)

Journal of American Studies Board Meeting + Lunch (Queen's 4.1)

1.30 – 3.30: SESSION C

Panel C1: Sound, Silence and Poetry (Queen's 4.1)

Chair: Ian Evans (University of Nottingham)

Elizabeth Micaković (University of Exeter), "Laboratory Voices: American Modernism's Phonographic Curatorship"

Edward Allen (University of Cambridge), "Marianne Moore, Cinema, and Gramophone Testing"

Nicola Presley (Bath Spa University), "'No ads please. FM only': Anne Sexton and the Ambiguities of Radio"

Maeve O'Brien (University of Ulster), "'Echoes travelling off from the centre like horses': perfected, wordless, noise in the 1963 writings of Sylvia Plath"

Panel C2: Borders and Borderlands (Queen's 6.2)

Chair: TBC

Victoria Carroll (King's College, London), "Sanguineous Allies: Reconciling HIV/AIDS and Chicana Feminism in 1980s America"

Esen Kara (Ankara University), "Space of Power and Resistance: Remapping the Borderland in Luis Alberto Urrea's *Into the Beautiful North*"

Eilidh Hall (University of East Anglia), "'So what's wrong with being a mujer?': The changing role of women in Chicano society"

Helen Oakley (Open University), "Crime on the U.S.-Mexico Border: the fiction of Sam Hawken"

Panel C3: *The Black Atlantic*: Twenty Years On (Queen's 6.1)

Convenor and Discussant: Alan Rice, University of Central Lancashire

Karen Salt (University of Aberdeen), "Haiti and the Representation of Black Sovereignty in the Archives of the Atlantic World"

Rachel Farebrother (Swansea University), "'The posing went along famously': Art, Fascination and the Intercultural in the Harlem Renaissance"

Fionnghuala Sweeney (University of Liverpool/ University College Dublin), "Archibald Motley and the art of serious painting"

Celeste-Marie Bernier (University of Nottingham), “A Beginner’s Guide to Black History’: Slavery, Memory and Representation in Contemporary African American and Black British Portraiture”

Panel C4: Transatlantic Literary Relations, 1840s-1920s (Queen’s 1B)

Chair: Adam Hallett (University of Exeter)

Michael Collins (University of Kent), “Dickens’s ‘Illimitable Dominion’: Transatlantic Print Culture and the Spring of 1842”

Theresa Saxon (University of Central Lancashire), “The Reception of Charles Dickens’s Reading Tours in America”

Debashis Bandyopadhyay (Presidency University, Kolkata), “Literary Debate on the American Civil War: Goldwin Smith and the Ethics of Mercantile Globalization (of Cotton)”

Alex Murray (University of Exeter), “‘Venice, sans hope’: James Huneker’s Decadent New York”

Panel C5: 1963 and Contemporary American Liberalism (Queen’s 1C)

Chair: George Lewis (University of Leicester)

Jeff Bloodworth (Gannon University), “Reform Democrats & the New Politics”

Kasper Rasmussen (Aarhus University), “The Peace Speech”

Chris Bradshaw (University of West Scotland), “Strained Relations”

Kris Burrell (CUNY-Hostos Community College), “Nonviolence on Trial”

Panel C6: Literature of the American South (Queen’s 1G)

Chair: Michael Bibler (Northumbria University)

Niall Munro (Oxford Brookes University), “‘Turn your eyes to the immoderate past’: Allen Tate’s *Stonewall Jackson* as a battleground of Southern identity”

Martyn Bone (University of Copenhagen), “‘This Is the Place Where the New World Is’: Black Struggle from the U.S. South to the Global South in John Oliver Killens’ *And Then We Heard the Thunder*”

Edward Clough (University of East Anglia), “Always Already Ruined: Doomed Classicism, Racist Literature, and the Dilemmas of Southern Fiction”

Chris Lloyd (Goldsmiths, University of London), “A Region at the End of the World: The (Post) Apocalyptic (Post)South”

Panel C7: Contemporary American Fiction I (Queen’s 4.2)

Chair: Will Norman (University of Kent)

Ruth Maxey (University of Nottingham), “‘We were all *we*’: Narrative Voice in Joshua Ferris’s *Then We Came to the End*”

Rachel Malkin (University of Cambridge), “‘Welcome to the Republic’: Ordinary Consolations and Painful Citizenship in Richard Ford”

Andy Munzer (University of York), “‘Hideous Men’: David Foster Wallace, Biography and Contemporary American Fiction”

Panel C8: Fulbright Round Table (Queen’s 1H)

Participants TBC

3.30 – 4.00: Tea and coffee (Queen’s MR1/2/3)

4.00 – 5.30: BAAS AGM (PCC / Newman A)

5.45 – 6.45: Plenary, sponsored by the Eccles Centre at the British Library (PCC-Newman A)

Paul Gilroy, Professor of American and English Literature (King’s College, London)

7.00: Walk and minibuss shuttle (if required) to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum for Drinks Reception sponsored by Birmingham University, hosts of BAAS 2014.

Own arrangements for dinner. Information on city centre eateries is provided in the conference pack.

9.00 – 12 midnight: Drinks (Holland Hall Bar)

Saturday, 20 April

7.30 – 9.00: Breakfast (Holland Hall, for those staying on campus)

9.00 – 10.30: SESSION D

Panel D1: (De)Segregation and the South (Queen's 4.1)

Chair: TBC

James C. Hall (University of Alabama), "Segregated Knowledge: Intellectual Life Under Jim Crow at the University of Alabama, 1925-1963"

Stephen E. Mawdsley (University of Cambridge), "Research Divided: Racial Segregation and Medical Research in the South, 1952"

Panel D2: Bodies and Embodiment on Film (Queen's 6.2)

Chair: Helen Hanson (University of Exeter)

Josh Toth (Grant MacEwan University), "Chameleons and Dictators: Impossible Democracy in Woody Allen's *Zelig*"

Erik Larsen (Notre Dame University), "Life's Prostheses: Vitalism and Mechanism in American Cinema"

Victoria Bates (University of Exeter), "'This Murderous Maternal Creature': Mothers and Münchhausen Syndrome by Proxy in American Popular Culture"

Panel D3: The Cold War: Intellectual Contexts (Queen's 6.1)

Chair: Bevan Sewell (University of Nottingham)

Nick Witham (Canterbury Christ Church University), "Historian in Public? Richard Hofstadter and the Writing of *The American Political Tradition* (1948)"

Curran Flynn (London School of Economics), "Early American IR textbooks: Hans Morgenthau's *Politics Among Nations* and its Competitors"

Rebecca Isaacs (University of Birmingham), "The Cold War Imperative: Race, Education and the Federal Government, 1947 – 1957"

Panel D4: American Literature in the Late Nineteenth Century (Queen's 1B)

Chair: Zoe Trodd (University of Nottingham)

Mark Storey (University of Warwick), "*Ben-Hur* and the Spectacle of Empire"

Samantha Bernstein (York University, Canada), "The Infernal Juggle: William Dean Howells and the Ethics of the Picturesque"

Susan Ann Bintu Walsh (University of Reading), "The Hieroglyphic Animal"

Panel D5: Going West in Film and Memoir (Queen's 1C)

Chair: TBC

Timothy Hughes (Royal Holloway), "Looking for America: The Politics and Aesthetics of Authenticity in Hollywood Renaissance Westerns"

Anthony Warde (University of Sheffield), "The Outlaw of Genre: Border Crossings and Transnational Appropriations in the Weird Western"

Holly M. Kent (University of Illinois-Springfield), "'In The City, I Was Lost, And Then The Wide Open Spaces Found Me': Female Memoirists on 'Going West' in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Century United States"

Panel D6: American Modernisms (Queen's 1G)

Chair: Vike Plock (University of Exeter)

Mark Whalan (University of Oregon), "Letters from a Soldier: States of Intimacy in WWI American Literature"

Tim Armstrong (Royal Holloway), "Social Credit Modernism in America"

Paul Crosthwaite (University of Edinburgh), "Modernism on Wall Street: Nathan Asch's *The Office*"

Panel D7: Gender Politics after World War II (Queen's 1H)

Chair: TBC

Michael P. Bibler (Northumbria University), "Addie Bundren Lives: Post-World War II Feminism and Valerie Bettis's Modern Dance Adaptation of William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*"

Elena Lipsos (University of Exeter), "Populuxe Design and Exaggerated Femininity in Postwar Consumerist America"

Catherine Haworth (University of Huddersfield), "It may sound like music to *her...*': Inter-American politics, 'Latin' scores, and the 1940s *femme fatale* in *The Leopard Man*"

Panel D8: Sites of Memory (Queen's F)

Chair: TBC

Jonathan Kewley (University of Durham), "Markers of the Free: Dissent in Gravestone Design from the 17th Century to the 21st"

Wayde Brown (University of Georgia), "Re-making Landmarks, Making a Past: Fort Ticonderoga reconsidered"

Eric J. Sandeen (University of Wyoming), "The Heart Mountain Barrack as a Site of Memory"

Panel D9: Food, Drink and Ethnic Identity (Queen's 4.2)

Chair: TBC

Lisa Bogert (Queen's University), "Constructing an Irish American identity through alcohol and pub culture from Prohibition to the present"

Shashikala Assella (University of Nottingham), "Exploring South Indian Diasporic women's identity through South Indian food: Amulya Malladi's *The Mango Season*"

10.30 – 11.00: Coffee (Queen's MR1/2/3 + Foyer)

11.00 – 12.30: SESSION E

Panel E1: African American Masculinity and Militancy (Queen's 4.1)

Chair: TBC

David Doddington (University of Warwick), "I never seen such a worker as my father': Work and Masculine Responsibility among the Enslaved"

Simon Topping (University of Plymouth), "The Double 'M': Mutiny and Militancy among African American soldiers during World War Two"

Joe Street (University of Northumbria), "The Double Consciousness of Dr Huey P. Newton"

Panel E2: Writing Home and Homestead (Queen's 6.2)

Chair: Jo Gill (University of Exeter)

Bridget Bennett (University of Leeds), "Home, Asylum and Community in Charles Brockden Brown's *Wieland; or, The Transformation: An American Tale* (1798)"

Michael Hooper (Independent Scholar), "Accommodations: Compromised Living Arrangements in the Plays of Horton Foote and Neil Simon"

Catherine Halverson (University of Copenhagen), "Surely no author ever enjoyed his book like I did': Hilda Rose and the *Atlantic Monthly*"

Panel E3: Innovations and Transitions in American Media Technologies, Industries and Practices (Queen's 6.1)

Chair: TBC

Helen Hanson (University of Exeter), "Invention, Innovation and Compromise: Experiments with 'surround' sound in American Cinema in the 1930s and 1940s"

Nick Hall (University of Exeter), "Just a station on his way? Robert Altman's transition from television to film"

James Lyons (University of Exeter), "You don't need stereo TV for *Laverne and Shirley*': converting America to stereo TV"

Panel E4: Conservatism and Neoconservatism (Queen's 1B)

Chair: TBC

Karen Heath (University of Oxford), "Reassessing the Right: Conservatives and the Politics of Art in the 1950s"

Kevin Blachford (University of Winchester), "Neoconservatism: The Un-American Tradition of U.S. Foreign Policy"

David Hancock (Kingston University), "Neoconservatism's Moral Support of Neoliberalism"

Panel E5: Writing the American West in the Nineteenth Century (Queen's 1C)

Chair: Mark Storey (University of Warwick)

Adam Hallett (University of Exeter), "Knickerbocker Prairie: Washington Irving's New York and the West"

Jude Piesse (University of Exeter), "Widening Wests: Nineteenth-Century American Westerns and the Literature of Anglo Settler Migration"

Janet Floyd (King's College, London), "Silverland, 1863: Sustaining the global city in 'flush times'"

Panel E6: Race, Gender and the Politics of Motherhood (Queen's 1G)

Chair: Nick Witham (Canterbury Christ Church University)

Gina Denton (University of Leeds), "Neither bombs nor guns – neither the state nor God – will stop us fighting for our children': Motherhood and Welfare Rights Organising in Boston in the 1960s and 1970s"

Nicholas Grant (University of East Anglia), "Towards a Global Black Motherhood: Care, Respectability and the Black Family in the Diaspora"

Wendy McMahon (University of East Anglia), "The Mother of all Storms: Katrina and Maternal Forces in Jesmyn Ward's *Salvage the Bones*"

Panel E7: Nineteenth-Century Visual Culture (Queen's 1H)

Chair: John Fagg (University of Birmingham)

Tom Wright (University of Sussex), "Proclaiming the War News in Herman Melville and Richard Caton Woodville"

Zoe Trodd (University of Nottingham), "Picturing Frederick Douglass: The Images and Visual Legacy of the Nineteenth Century's Most Photographed American"

Andrew E. Hershberger (Bowling Green State University), "Timing the American West: Landscape Photographs in Rare 19th-Century Geology Books"

Panel E8: Voices on the Margins: Gender, Race and Memory in the 1960s and 1970s (Queen's F)

Chair: TBC

Dawn-Marie Gibson (Royal Holloway), "For and about you': Nation Women's Writings, 1960-1975"

Althea Legal-Miller (London Centre of Arcadia University), "'Unmentionable ugliness': Gendered Memories of the Leesburg Stockade Jail-in, 1963"

Sinead McEaney (St. Mary's University College, Twickenham), "Autobiography as continued resistance: Gender, the Black Panther Party and Elaine Brown's *A Taste of Power*"

Panel E9: Black Intellectuals in a Transnational Context (Queen's 4.2)

Chair: TBC

Elizabeth Fielder (University of Mississippi), "Radical American Abroad: Julian Mayfield and the International Civil Rights Movement"

Jake Hodder (University of Nottingham), "Bayard Rustin's Africa Program"

Kevin A. Yelvington (University of South Florida), "Ralph J. Bunche, Anthropologist"

12.30 – 1.30: LUNCH (Peter Chalk Centre)

12.45 – 1.30: British Association of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (BrANCA) meeting (Queen's 1G)

1.30 – 3.00: SESSION F

Panel F1: The Civil Rights Movement and its Opponents (Queen's 4.1)

Chair: Bevan Sewell (University of Nottingham - TBC)

Simon Peplow (University of Exeter), "A reciprocal relationship? A study of American and British Civil Rights"

Emma Folwell (University of Leicester), "The Legacy of CDGM: White Opposition to Head Start in Mississippi, 1965-1972"

Eraina Davis (Yale University), "Religious Piety and the Civil Rights Movement"

Panel F2: Sex and Politics in Comics and Film (Queen's 6.2)

Chair: TBC

Charles J. Shindo (Louisiana State University), "The War of the Worlds, the Cold War, and the War on Terror"

Ian Gordon (National University of Singapore), "Politics and Comic Book Superheroes"

Paul Williams (University of Exeter), "Art Spiegelman, J. B. Rund, and the Making and Marketing of 'Adult Comics' in the 1970s"

Panel F3: Drones and the War on Terror (Queen's 6.1)

Chair: TBC

Chris Fuller (University of Southampton), "The Eagle Comes Home to Roost: The Historic Origins of the CIA's Lethal Drone Program"

Paul Jahshan (Notre Dame University, Lebanon), "The Spectacle of Death: Drones and the Seduction of America's Push-Button 'War on Terror'"

Umbreen Javaid (University of the Punjab, Lahore-Pakistan), "U.S. War on Terror and Rising Religious Militancy in Pakistan"

Panel F4: Masculinity on Screen (Queen's 1B)

Chair: James Lyons (University of Exeter)

Ian Hepworth (University of Gloucestershire), "New American Masculinities in the Context of the War on Terror: Heroism, the Family, and the Frontier in Erik Kripke's *Supernatural*"

Katie Barnett (University of Birmingham), "The American Father: Crisis Figure or Masculine Saviour? Paternal Death and Rehabilitation in Pre-Millennial Hollywood"

Jude Davies (University of Winchester), "Crisis – What Crisis? Twenty Years of the 'Crisis of (Straight White) Masculinity', from *Falling Down* to *The End of Men*"

Panel F5: Neo-Slave Narratives (Queen's 1C)

Chair: TBC

Gavin Cologne-Brookes (Bath Spa University), "Rereading *The Confessions of Nat Turner*"

Jennifer Terry (University of Durham), "Kinship, Reproduction and Diasporic Futures in the Fiction of Octavia Butler"

Stephanie Brown (Ohio State University), "A meditation on historiography': Valerie Martin's *Property* and shifting representational strategies in the neo-slave narrative"

Panel F6: HOTCUS Panel: Responses to Conservatism: Democratic Senators in the 1970s (Queen's 1G)

Chair: TBC

Tom Packer (University of Oxford), "Old South or New Right? Dixiecrat Senators in the 1970s"

Patrick Andelic (University of Oxford), "Mr. Hart Goes To Washington: From the New Politics to Neoliberalism"

David Ballantyne (University of Cambridge), "Fritz Hollings: an 'election year conservative and five year liberal?'"

Panel F7: Music and Soundtracks in Literature and Film (Queen's 4.2)

Chair: Bob Lawson-Peebles (University of Exeter)

Jade Broughton (University of Leicester), "The Musical Fiction of F. Scott Fitzgerald"

Dorothea Gail (University of Michigan), "Identity and In-betweenness: Ethnicity, Nation, State and Style in the Music of R. Carlos Nakai and the 'SynthacoustiachiNavajazz' of Jackalope"

Phil Langran (University of Lincoln), "Sound-tracking the South: Music in the Work of Matt Bondurant and Ron Rash"

Panel F8: Publishers' Round Table (Queen's 1H)

Chair: Martin Halliwell (University of Leicester)

Participants TBC

3.00 – 3.30: Tea and coffee (Queen's MR1/2/3)

3.30 – 5.00: SESSION G

Panel G1: Security and Defence (Queen's 4.1)

Chair: TBC

Yanan Song (University of Durham), "The U.S. Commitments to NATO in the Post-Cold War Period – A Case Study on Libya"

Mark Shanahan (Brunel University), "Eisenhower, Sputnik and the Dead Dog Bounce"

Clara Eroukhmanoff (University of St. Andrews), "The securitisation of Islam in the U.S. since 9/11: A Local Securitisation"

Panel G2: Politics, Propaganda and Film (Queen's 6.2)

Chair: TBC

Jenny Barrett (Edge Hill University), "The National Front will be Asleep by the Time the Klan Arrives': Screening and Studying *The Birth of a Nation* on its Centenary"

Ian Scott (University of Manchester), "A Better Tomorrow: Translating Transatlantic World War II Propaganda"

Hannah Graves (University of Warwick), "Adult Entertainment: Darryl F. Zanuck and the Coming of Age of Hollywood's Social Conscience Filmmaking"

Panel G3: Rapper, Writer, Pop-Cultural Player: How Ice-T's journey informs the African American experience since 1992 (Queen's 6.1)

Chair: Jo Metcalf (University of Hull)

Jonathan Munby (University of Lancaster), "Writing on the Rilla with Ice-T: from Autobiography to Avatar in *Kings of Vice*"

William Turner (University of Manchester), "Rocking the Real: Violence, Crossover and Containment in the career of Body Count"

Barry Shanahan (University College Dublin), "*Ice Loves Coco*: The convergence of neo-liberal and family values in 21st Century Reality TV"

Panel G4: Remapping Transnational Modernism (Queen's 1B)

Chair: Mark Whalan (University of Oregon)

Joanna Pawlik (University of Manchester), "Transnationalizing the Regional, Regionalizing the Transnational: the case of *Circle* magazine 1944-48"

Tara Stubbs (University of Oxford), "American Modernists and the Celtic Revival"

Will Norman (University of Kent), "Modernism, Postwar Intellectuals and the Failure of 'Atlantic Civilization'"

Panel G5: Contemporary American Fiction II (Queen's 1C)

Chair: Rachael McLennan (University of East Anglia)

Andrew Pepper (Queen's University Belfast), "Cormac McCarthy's State of Nature: Crime, Violence and the Law in *No Country for Old Men*"

David Brauner (University of Reading), "Queering Philip Roth: Homosocial Discourse in 'The American Trilogy'"

Meredith Miller (University College Falmouth), "Werewolves, Spaceships, Trauma and Desire: Practical Consciousness and Sexual Power in Kelly Armstrong and Sherrilyn Kenyon"

Panel G6: Cultures of the African Diaspora (Queen's 1G)

Chair: Jennifer Terry (University of Durham)

Sara Wood (University of Birmingham), "The Matter of Invisibility"

Sirene Harb (American University of Beirut), "Naming Oppressions, Representing Empowerment: June Jordan's and Suheir Hammad's Poetic Projects"

Ben Miller (University College Dublin), "'Trujillo with a different mask': Narrating the Violence of Diasporic History in Díaz's *Oscar Wao*"

Panel G7: Urban Space: From California to New York (Queen's 1H)

Chair: TBC

Ruth Hawthorn (University of Glasgow), "John Fante's Unreal City"

Georgiana Lolea (West University of Timisoara), "The Burden of Memory in Stelian Tănase's American journal *L.A. vs. NY*"

Martha Shearer (King's College, London), "Enchanted: The Revival of the Musical and the Disneyfication of Times Square"

Panel G8: American Expressionism in the 1930s (Queen's F)

Chair: TBC

Alan Bilton (University of Swansea), "F.W. Murnau's *City Girl* (1930): Expressionist Landscapes, American Grain"

Charlotte Purkis (University of Winchester), "Contrasts and connections in Anglo-American Expressionist writing: *The Searcher* in context"

Panel G9: Femininity, Fashion and Material Culture (Queen's 4.2)

Chair: Sue Currell (University of Sussex)

Anna Luker Gilding (King's College, London), "Translating Material: The function of fashion in *Godey's Lady's Book*"

John Fagg (University of Birmingham), "John Sloan and the Clutter and Matter of Commercial Art"

Vike Plock (University of Exeter), "Edith Wharton, Fashion, and the Fictions of Modernity"

5.30 – 6.30: Plenary, sponsored by the University of Exeter (PCC -Newman A):

Speaker TBC

7.00 – 7.30: Drinks Reception: Hosted by Harvard University Press to mark its Centenary, 1913-2013 (Great Hall Foyer)

7.30 – 10.00: Gala Dinner and Awards Evening (Great Hall)

10.00 – 12.30: Drinks (Great Hall Bar)

Sunday, 21 April

8.00 – 9.30: Breakfast (Holland Hall, for those staying on campus)

9.30 – 11.00: SESSION H

Panel H1: Representing War and Assassination during the Cold War (Queen's 4.1)

Chair: Paul Williams (University of Exeter)

Sam Goodman (University of Exeter), "Spies That Bind: James Bond and the Special Relationship"

Fraser McCallum (University of Glasgow), "The Zapruder Film, The Warren Commission and *JFK*: Understanding Conspiracy Theories Surrounding The Kennedy Assassination"

Christina Rowley (University of Bristol), "An Intertextual Analysis of Gendered Representations of the Vietnam War and U.S. identity in Vietnam War films and in U.S. Presidential Speeches"

Panel H2: American Music from the 1940s to the 1960s (Queen's 6.2)

Chair: TBC

Vernon L. Williams (Abilene Christian University), "Glenn Miller, the Jitterbug, and the Big Band Invasion of Britain in World War II"

Tracy M. Shilcutt (Abilene Christian University), "Pirates, Rock'n Roll, and Radio London: An Offshore Assault on the British Broadcasting Corporation, 1964-1967"

Collin Lieberg (University of Warwick), “All Gone to Look For America’: Music and American National Identity in the 1960s”

Panel H3: American Thought and Culture Between the World Wars (Queen’s 6.1)

Chair: TBC

Thomas Doherty (Brandeis University), “Little Lindy Is Kidnapped: the Media Coverage of the Crime of the 20th Century”

Jared S. Rife (Penn State, Harrisburg), “A Time of Preparation and Transformation: The Years 1936-1941 and College-aged Youth”

Suvi Irvine (Johns Hopkins University), “Why America needs more cynics—Mencken, cynicism and American political thought”

Panel H4: Postracial America? (Queen’s 1B)

Chair: Sara Wood (University of Birmingham)

Nicole King (Higher Education Academy), “Alone Together: Doing African American Postcolonial Literature”

Alicja Syska (University of Plymouth), “The Science of Memory: W.E.B. Du Bois and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., on the Genealogical Trail to Membership in the Sons of the American Revolution”

Madalina Stalniceanu (University of Nottingham), “The Gates Incident, the Shooting of Trayvon Martin and the Constraints of a Postracial President”

Panel H5: Photography and Film in Contemporary American Fiction (Queen’s 1C)

Chair: TBC

Kangqin Li (University of Leicester), “Seeing in the Age of Photography: Vision and Form in John Updike’s Short Fiction”

Brian Jarvis (Loughborough University), “Don DeLillo on Film”

Rachel McLennan (University of East Anglia), “‘Wed to the Subject’: Anne Frank and the Photograph in Anne Tyler’s *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* (1982) and Elinor Lipman’s *The Inn at Lake Devine* (1998)”

Panel H6: Transatlantic Culture in the Mid-Twentieth Century (Queen’s 1G)

Chair: TBC

Nikolai Duffy (Manchester Metropolitan University), “Somewhere in the Atlantic: Rosmarie Waldrop and the Poetics of the Between”

Mikolaj Golubiewski (Free University Berlin), “Milosz’s American Beginnings: *The Captive Mind*, Red Scare, and the Curse of Prose”

Panel H7: Constructing the American Nation Through Trauma: Selected Texts by Jim Crace, Jamaica Kincaid, and Martin McDonagh (Queen’s 1H)

Chair: Sinéad Moynihan (University of Exeter)

Diletta Di Cristofaro (University of Nottingham), “Imagining America’s Post-Apocalyptic Futurity: Jim Crace’s *The Pesthouse*”

Dawn Sherratt-Bado (University of Edinburgh), “Xuela’s Autothanatography: Genocide, Ecocide, and the Death of the Caribbean Motherland in Jamaica Kincaid’s *The Autobiography of My Mother*”

Alison Garden (University of Edinburgh), “‘Regeneration Through Violence’? Nationalism and the Myth of the (American) West in Martin McDonagh’s *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*”

Panel H8: Secrets in/of America (Queen’s F)

Chairs: Uta Balbier and Clare Birchall

Clare Birchall (King’s College, London), “Digital Transparency: America’s Solution to Secrecy and its Effects”

Sue Currell (Sussex University), “‘Notes on Un-Americana’: *New Masses* magazine and the Red”

Doug Haynes (Sussex University), “Ellis’s Open Secret: Ideology and Affect”

11.00 – 11.30: Tea / Coffee (Queen’s MR1/2/3 + Foyer)

Panel I1: American Fraternalism and the Ku Klux Klan (Queen's 4.1)

Chair: TBC

Adam Kendall (Henry W. Coil Library & Museum of Freemasonry), "Writing History with Lightning: The Ku Klux Klan and the Fraternal Press in the 1920s"

Kristofer Allerfeldt (University of Exeter), "Celebrity and Fraternal Allegiance in the Masons and the Ku Klux Klan"

Miguel Hernandez (University of Exeter), "Friend or Foe? Grand Master's Responses to the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s"

Jeffrey Tyssens (Vrije Universiteit Brussels), "The Cult of Brother Nobody: Hero Worship in American Fraternalism"

Panel I2: Culture of the North American Suburbs (Queen's 6.2)

Chair: Jo Gill (University of Exeter)

Ondine Park (University of Alberta), "Recollecting Suburbia: Palimpsest of Suburban Affective Encounters"

Martin Dines (Kingston University), "Built to last: Suburban histories on the contemporary stage"

Cheryl Cowdy (York University, Canada), "Master Plans: Masculinity, Scopophilia, and Suburban Design in Two Canadian Novels"

Alan Mace (London School of Economics), "Bourdieu in the Burbs"

Panel I3: Audre Lorde's Transnational Legacies (Queen's 6.1)

Chair: Stella Bolaki (University of Kent)

Stella Bolaki (University of Kent), "Audre Lorde and the Black Diaspora"

Katharina Gerund (FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg), "Transracial Feminist Alliances? Audre Lorde and (West) German Women"

Zeedah Meierhofer-Mangeli (Consultant for Women Peace, Security and Development, Resource Center for Black Women), "Audre Lorde and Black Women in Switzerland"

Suryia Nayak (University of Salford), "Black feminism is not white feminism in blackface': Using Audre Lorde to Develop a Black and Asian Women's Rape Crisis Service within a Feminist Collective"

Panel I4: Conversions, Reindeers, Vampires, and Urban Fiction: Interdisciplinary Approaches to U.S. Religion (Queen's 1B)

Chair: TBC

Uta Balbier (King's College, London), "Practiced Religion at the Billy Graham Crusades"

Jennie Chapman (University of Hull), "Publishing, Pluralism, and the Popular: The Growth of Urban Christian and Islamic Fiction in the U.S."

Emma Long (University of Kent), "Plastic Reindeer, the Pledge of Allegiance and American Civil Religion: The Problems of Defining Religion in Constitutional Law"

Christina Wilkins (University of Southampton), "Sublimated religion and the cult of vampirism on U.S. TV"

Panel I5: Immigration Past and Present (Queen's 1C)

Chair: TBC

John Killick (University of Leeds), "North Atlantic steerage fares, emigration, and return migration 1820-60: Evidence from the Cope Line passenger service"

William E. Van Vugt (Calvin College), "America's Immigrants: Why the English Seem 'Hidden'"

Elizabeth Aranda and Elizabeth Vaquera (University of South Florida), "Immigration, Legal Exclusion and Racialization in the United States"

Fraser Ottanelli (University of South Florida), "Class, Migration and Transnational Politics: Fascism, Antifascism and the definition of Italian American Identity"

Panel I6: Exploration, Settlement and Early America (Queen's 1G)

Chair: TBC

Alison Stanley (King's College, London), "He answered me *Nux*, which did much rejoice my spirit': Mary Rowlandson, Wampanoag interpreter?"

Edward Sugden (University of Oxford), "The Pacific Origins of the United States"

Susan Ortmann (Penn State, Harrisburg), "The Ohio River Valley Settler and his 'Errand into the Wilderness'"

Robert G. Brooking (Georgia State University), "A most highly coveted post': James Wright and the Making of a Southern Royal Governor"

Panel I7: Writing Travel, Mobility and Motion (Queen's 4.2)

Chair: TBC

Rebecca Mills (University of Exeter), "Tracking Amy Clampitt's Restless Elegy"

Ian C. Davidson (Northumbria University), "The Oppens, Motion and Mobility"

John Lennon (University of South Florida), "Writing Dirty and Loud: Reading Resistance to American Capitalism through Railriding Publications from the 20th to 21st century"

1.30 – 2.30: LUNCH (Queen's MR1/2/3)

END of the 58th BAAS Annual Conference.

Organised by Dr. Jo Gill, Dr. Sinéad Moynihan and Dr. Paul Williams.

Email: baas2013@exeter.ac.uk.

For online registration, please use the following link: <http://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/research/conferences/baas2013/>.

In Memory of Susan Manning (1953-2013)

The announcement of Professor Susan Manning's sudden passing came as a shock to all those who knew her, and the tributes left on the Edinburgh University webpage are a testament to the esteem in which she was held, not just in Edinburgh but around the world. Susan was appointed to the Grierson Chair in English Literature in 1999 and, since 2005, had been the director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities. Prior to Edinburgh she had taught at Cambridge, which was where, as a graduate student, I first met her. She was fiercely intelligent, with a wealth of reading at her disposal, yet at the same time generous with her time and interested in other people's work. Those qualities of personal and intellectual curiosity characterised her as an academic and as a friend. In an environment that could be intimidating, Susan was a welcome blast of normality, able to combine a successful career with a life outside of the university that mattered just as much as her teaching and research. As a model for a well-balanced academic she could not be bettered.

I listened to Susan give many lectures and seminar papers over the years, and what struck me most clearly was her ability to find affiliations across and between different writers and national literatures. Her perspective was both historically deep and geographically wide, and this made for some thrilling and unexpected readings. Her area of expertise – broadly late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century American and Scottish literature – did not limit her, for she had the enviable ability to bring that expertise to bear on a wide range of subjects and disciplines, to create an environment of intellectual conversation that was the epitome of those principles of the Scottish enlightenment – civility, openness, diversity – that she held so dear. Her directorship of the Institute provided her with a home for generating the kind of interdisciplinary work that she valued – work that often challenged her more proprietorial colleagues to think beyond their own intellectual worlds. Her books (*The Puritan-Provincial Vision* (1990), *Fragments of Union* (2002), and

The Poetics of Character (forthcoming later this year)) are written in the belief that ideas circulate; they travel to take new forms and enact new possibilities. Her commitment to the transatlantic as a space in which this mobility might be explored marked her entire career, and was instrumental in establishing Edinburgh as a centre for transatlantic literary studies. Her energy was remarkable, and was often just as much directed at helping junior colleagues with their projects as it was focused on her own research. She was gifted in being able to foster the conditions in which these kinds of exchange are possible – whether with students in the classroom, on a conference panel, or as editor of a publication. Books, and the ideas in them, mattered to Susan. They were, for her, the means by which we are able to reflect, self-consciously, on our condition. They provoke, they enrage, they seduce, they convince, they make us feel. In a university culture where the phrase “transferrable skills” is common currency, this more fundamental sense of why English literature is important can get forgotten. Susan reminded us of it.

At her funeral, one of Susan's daughters read Emily Dickinson's poem “There's a certain slant of light”, a beautiful meditation on how words compel us to acts of interpretation but at the same time continually thwart our efforts at understanding. “We can find no scar, / But internal difference, / Where the Meanings, are –”, says Dickinson. Susan's writing built on, and revelled in, this paradox. Her new, and final, book, *The Poetics of Character*, is an extended reckoning of the “internal differences” that delight and confound across the transatlantic divide. Its significance will be all the more magnified by her loss. A loss – too soon, too young – has reverberated through our subject. It is felt most acutely, of course, by her family. In time the knowledge that Susan inspired generations of students and academics may be a consolation. But I suspect not yet.

Andrew Taylor
(University of Edinburgh)

Report of the BAAS Annual Postgraduate Conference 2012

The 2012 BAAS Postgraduate Conference, 'Memory: America Past, Present and Future', took place at the University of Leicester on 24 November 2012. We chose the broad theme of 'Memory', hoping the theme would provide a stimulating day showcasing the latest postgraduate research across American Studies. The conference overwhelmed our expectations. We received a large number of high quality submissions from postgraduates across Europe and in America and more than seventy delegates attended the conference. According to the positive feedback we received from speakers and delegates, the conference was informative, interesting and enjoyable. Happily, the predicted Mayan apocalypse that was mentioned in the call for papers did not occur.

The day began with a stellar keynote address by Prof. Brian Ward. Addressing the concept of memory in relation to Florence Mills and Elvis Presley, Professor Ward's illuminating and entertaining keynote set the tone for a day of compelling papers. The broad theme of the conference produced a mix of interdisciplinary panels, incorporating literary, historical, political and film studies on war and landscape alongside specialised panels focusing on Presidential rhetoric and conservative ideology. The rich interdisciplinary nature of the panels fostered discussions that created many interesting connections between the various disciplines. While the panels all had overarching themes, it was quite enjoyable to hear papers discussing King Alfred alongside an analysis of the Tea Party movement and visual arts papers in conversation with architecture and the body. In addition, it was nice to see that each of the panels had an almost even number of audience members. We feel that this is a testament to the high quality of research on display that day. The nine panels offered up a clear idea of the vibrant state of American studies at the postgraduate level. Speakers came from Spain, Ireland, Japan and China and from universities across the UK and continental Europe. The conference concluded with a roundtable

discussion of the recent US election, featuring Prof. Iwan Morgan, Dr Andrew Johnstone and Dr Alex Waddan. This discussion ranged in topic from the role of the economy to the rise of the Hispanic voter and the role of foreign policy in an election dominated by the economy. The panel provoked insightful questions and provided an excellent discussion that contextualised the difficulties in accurately forecasting the election's outcome both in the US and international media.

The conference ended with a wine reception and a conference dinner. They provided a great opportunity for further informal discussion and a great opportunity for us as organisers to communicate with fellow postgrads with whom we had been corresponding for some months. The collegial nature of this event was commented on by many of the delegates and we hope that this event served its mission to create an atmosphere conducive to free form intellectual discussions that we feel reflects the nature and spirit of postgraduate level American Studies in Great Britain and beyond.

Organising the conference was a challenging and rewarding experience. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the British Association for American Studies for their generous support, as well as the Schools of English and Historical Studies at the University of Leicester. In particular, we would like to express our appreciation for the help and support provided by our mentors at the University of Leicester, including Prof. Martin Halliwell, Dr. Catherine Morley and Dr. George Lewis. Finally we would like to extend our thanks to all the speakers and delegates for their contribution to what was a successful and enjoyable conference.

Rob Jones, Emma Folwell and Kangqin Li
Centre for American Studies,
University of Leicester
(The Organising Team)

BAAS Notices and Requests

Media Contacts Database: Call for Information

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

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

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

BAAS Database of Schools Liaison Personnel

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.

An Interview with BAAS Honorary Fellow Professor Mick Gidley

KA: How did it feel to be awarded an Honorary BAAS Fellowship in 2009? And how would you characterise your relationship to BAAS in general and its work?

MG: I was surprised and very thrilled to be awarded one of the first Fellowships. I've been a member of BAAS since 1967, and I was on the committee for many years. I'm proudest of my time as chair of the Education Subcommittee, when we initiated several ventures that are now commonplace, and I very much enjoyed being our representative at the EAAS Board. I have long been committed to interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching, but I've always worked in English departments, so BAAS was a way to meet, and be involved with, people from a variety of American studies areas. In the Thatcher years, our field was institutionally under threat, and it is again today. BAAS has to be relied upon to defend it.

KA: You are particularly known for researching American Indian themes from your earliest publications such as *The Vanishing Race* (1976) and *One Sky Above Us* (1979) through to more recent work such as *Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indian Project in the Field* (2003). Can you please speak a little about these research inspirations and interests and how they have developed throughout your career?

MG: Well, before I got deeply into American Indian themes, I wrote a lot about American fiction – principally Faulkner, but also Fitzgerald and others – and I was mainly interested in how they represented aspects of the culture, such as then-current ideas of race. Though I wrote less about literature per se as time went on, I always taught literature, right up to when I retired.

My interest in Native Americans had two beginnings that came together: first, before I became an academic I spent two years as a VSO school teacher in a remote part of Nigeria, and I was overwhelmed by a culture I didn't understand. That experience got me into reading anthropology. Second, quite separately, when I had to devise my own early courses as an American studies

academic, I realised that I knew virtually nothing about America's first peoples, and that they had not featured anywhere in the courses I had taken, either in Britain or the US. I set about trying to make up for lost time, and I'm still doing it! It was quite lonely at first: there was my friend Dave Murray at Nottingham and a little later, at UEA, Jackie Fear-Segal, who also became a friend, and that was about it. But mainland Europe came to the rescue in the form of the European American Indian Workshop (which has since become a fully fledged learned society in its own right) where I learnt a lot from people like Christian Feest, Joelle Rostkowski and, well before she moved to Britain, Susan Castillo. It's great that we now have a lively UK Native Studies Research Network.

KA: As a keen amateur photographer, your interest in photography and figures such as Richard Avedon also intrigues me. What interests you about photography, photographers, and 'American' photography in particular?

MG: You'll have to read my most recent book, *Photography and the USA* (2011)!

Actually, a serious interest in photography was also a lonely pursuit for quite a while. You know, I have never given a plenary lecture at a BAAS conference, so one year I offered to talk about American portrait photography, but the conference secretary said he thought it would be of interest only to a minority: that put me in my place! It gives me much pleasure that the annual conference now pretty regularly features sessions on photography.

I seem often to have researched in areas of minority or peripheral interest to mainstream American Studies – the Shakers, ideas of landscape, connections between words and images (I first wrote about this, with reference to e. e. cummings, back in 1968). I was attracted to such topics partly because, being peripheral, they "naturally" butted onto other aspects of the culture. I've always looked closely at texts of one sort or another – fictions, films, paintings, ethnographies – but the object of study was not ultimately the text, but culture.

KA: I understand you retired from your teaching duties in 2006...Is teaching something you have enjoyed as much as research?

MG: I loved teaching. I even enjoyed administration – when it meant starting things, like years of study abroad, or building resources. Of course, on the other hand “administration” also meant, for me, at Exeter, years of defending from closure a programme that students found exciting and that I believed the university should have been proud of... (I hasten to add that I’m sure Exeter these days is supportive of American studies.)

At Exeter I had the good fortune for most of my 24 years there of teaching only in seminars of between 10 and 25 students, and in the first dozen years I was able to devise lots of project work, in which the students and I would explore a topic, sometimes one I didn’t know much about at the start. There were many very adventurous students, which made it truly rewarding. Then at Leeds, from 1995 onwards, I learnt to enjoy giving lectures to quite big groups – 450 in the introductory level one modules. And I was lucky to have some terrific MA and PhD students. A lot of my writing came directly out of MA modules. I feel a bit paternal about my PhD students, each of them now fine academics... I must admit, I miss all of that.

KA: I understand that you have spent periods of time abroad?

MG: Yes. American Studies has been very good to me from a travel point of view. In the 1970s I was lucky to be granted an ACLS fellowship to research Edward Curtis at the Burke Museum in Seattle, and in the course of the year, my family and I visited virtually every Indian reservation in the West. In the 1980s I did a spell of teaching at San Diego State University. In the 1990s I had a fellowship at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study to collaborate with Rob Kroes, Bob Rydell, David Nye and others on the European reception of US mass culture. And in 2005 I was able to work in the American Studies Program at the University of Wyoming with Eric Sandeen and his colleagues. EU programmes have been great for building relationships with American studies specialists in mainland Europe; through such schemes I made links with such colleagues as Berndt Ostendorf and Rosella Mamoli Zorzi.

KA: You’ve published a considerable number of books and articles. How did you/do you go about achieving your writing goals?

MG: I have also written poetry my whole adult life. As a young man I dreamed of being a writer, and did publish work in *Poetry*, *Poetry Review*, and the like, and since retiring I have sent some of it out to magazines, and one or two poems are getting published. Since coming to Leeds I’ve been in a poetry group with some very fine published poets, and I think the way the group looks so closely at every word has helped my writing generally, not just the writing of poetry: I hope I have become more exact, and exacting, in both organisation and phrasing.

KA: And you’ve been involved in exhibitions?

MG: Yes, a travelling one that we sent out from Exeter, and several to do with photographs of Indians – at the Barbican in London and in France at the American Art museum in Giverny. Just last summer, my son (who is an urban sociologist) and I wrote the catalogue essay for *Another London*, an exhibition at Tate Britain of overseas photographers’ views of the city.

KA: I’m keen to talk about ideas, and to share in your perspective on the world. Are there figures who have influenced you philosophically? Or intellectual ‘heroes’ who move(d) you?

MG: I was most influenced by first-hand learning in the seminar room. At Manchester, as an undergraduate, listening to Frank Kermode, who was a wonderful literary critic, I realised for the first time that intellectual speculation could be positively thrilling. At the University of Chicago I was taught by several “Chicago School” structuralist critics, and that method of close reading – whatever the form of text – has stayed with me. And at Sussex, I was in awe of Marcus Cunliffe, who knew a lot but conveyed it with such a light touch. I still admire some of the founding fathers and mothers of American cultural studies – F. O. Matthiessen, John Kouwenhoven, Constance Rourke. It was right to dump American Exceptionalism as an ideology – often evident in those early books – but not the insights such books contained. The continuing work of Alan Trachtenberg is an inspiration.

I read quite a lot of philosophy proper as an undergraduate – I even won a philosophy essay prize – but I’m really an empiricist, just following

my nose. I have been moved by Roland Barthes, Walter Benjamin and Susan Sontag, and the anthropologist Clifford Geertz, but I know I have usually been utilitarian in the way I've read such thinkers, looking for what I can use, not really allowing them to get deep enough into me... I admire colleagues, such as Richard King and Douglas Tallack, who have developed more properly theorised approaches.

KA: When you say empiricist...Are you someone who subscribes to the notion of the newborn human mind as a tabula rasa?

MG: I used the term "empiricist" to invoke a methodology, the movement from observation, through analysis to interpretation – though in practice as soon as you start to put your observations into words you begin to analyse, and the analysis often initiates an interpretation (which it should).

KA: Yes, I suspected you had methodology in mind, but as you mention an interest in philosophy, what are your thoughts of the term in that context?

MG: Given what we now know about genetic inheritance, I think it's difficult to believe in the newborn mind as a tabula rasa in the way that Locke seems to have meant it. But I still incline to the nurture side of the nurture/nature debate, and therefore see culture, in the broad anthropological sense, as a principal determinant of beliefs and behaviour. Of course, culture, too, is dynamic and, as Barthes said, has "multiple centres". It's a force field, and at best we can describe moments within it.

KA: I agree with the first portion of your response: if we are to talk about mind and cognition, the idea of a 'blank slate' is untenable in light of the scientific evidence... Alas we must move on: from nature versus nurture to Lincoln, no less!

Now, as you know, this *ASIB* roughly coincides with the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. President Obama has described President Lincoln's actions as nothing short of "courageous", and Steven Spielberg's recent film reinforces the vision of Lincoln as "great persuader". On the other hand, historians like Erika Dunbar see Lincoln as a recovering racist, and emphasise the actions of people like Douglass as more crucial to the freedom of African-Americans. Do you have any thoughts on the matter?

MG: I have thoughts, but since I haven't done any relevant primary research, I don't vouch for their value! So often in US history you see a dissonance between intention and effect, and the mythology that grows out of the history frequently conflates the two. Lincoln and the Civil War, I think, are cases in point. Lincoln and the Civil War did, of course, free the slaves, but Lincoln prosecuted the war to preserve the Union, not to free the slaves. But, as the newspaper editor in John Ford's *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* said, "When the legend becomes fact, print the legend". I like the notion of Lincoln as a "recovering racist". But, he *was* recovering, and it would be simplistic to deny him heroic status. He himself certainly understood the mix of considerations, not all of them ethical, that lead towards a good end. Hence his wonderful phrase in the First Inaugural speech: "the better angels of our nature". I know more about the way Lincoln has been *represented* than I know about the actual Lincoln. When we look at Robert Sherwood's 1938 Lincoln play or John Ford's 1939 Lincoln film, we realise they tell us more about the cultural norms of the Great Depression than they do about Lincoln. Let's hope that Spielberg's Lincoln, who ultimately yields to his "better angels", is actually an accurate gauge of the mood of *our* time.

KA: Now, email feedback indicates that *ASIB* readers enjoy finding out about the literature, film, music and art that's important to BAAS Honorary Fellows! Can you indulge us?

MG: I appreciate all the arts (and Leeds is good for theatre, modern dance, and cinema) but I seem to have cloth ears for music. Nancy, my wife, is musical, and she and my kids – both when they were teenagers and since as grown-ups – have tried to educate me. When I have listened to friends, such as David Horn or Paul Oliver, talk about musicals or the blues I've understood the profound cultural significance of such forms, but I wouldn't know how to talk about them myself.

I take pleasure in film, and where I live is great for getting to cinemas, including the National Media Museum at Bradford. I have also worked closely with real film people, especially Richard Maltby at Exeter, so I'm used to – and enjoy – watching films through more than once. Lately we've been getting 1940s films from Sofa Cinema. William Wyler's *The Best Years of our Lives* (1946), which stars Harold Russell, an actual war-time double amputee, is

extraordinary. To be honest, these days I spend more time watching TV than going to either the cinema or the theatre. I think *The Wire* and *Mad Men* are essential viewing for Americanists.

Photography we've already mentioned. I'm beginning to "get" conceptual photography, but I'm not moved by it, so it's the classics, especially American classics – Edward Weston, Hine, Stieglitz, Marion Post Walcott – that I go to for enjoyment. I'm at a similar stage with American painting and sculpture, so it's the early twentieth century work that I most appreciate: St Gaudens' sculpture, the Ash Can painters, Georgia O'Keeffe, Hopper. And American quilts, including Amish and Seminole quilts. Some of the ordinary Nineteenth-century women who made quilts prefigured the abstractions of Modernism.

Literature is still my first love. I read, but cannot say I keep up with, poetry. I read quite a lot of fiction. Then again, I don't pretend to keep up with that either. I want to re-read some of the slightly less well-known American writers I've found for myself, so to speak – Alfred Hayes, Reynolds Price and Jean Toomer (who is now much taught of course). Living writers I enjoy include Richard Ford, Marilynne Robinson, Jim Harrison and the Indian novelists Louise Erdrich and Sherman Alexie. Through my daughter, I recently discovered Andrew Sean Greer's *The Story of a Marriage*, and through my son, Dennis Johnson. Leeds colleagues have introduced me to other new American writers – there are just so *many*. Since I retired, I've joined a men's reading group, and we mostly read contemporary British figures. It's good to get to know some, after a lifetime of ignorance, but at the level of prose style, crafting distinctive sentences, American writers win hands down. People like Ian McEwan – even a wonderful stylist like Hilary Mantel – seem prosaic or thin in comparison with, say, Toni Morrison, Cormac McCarthy or E.L. Doctorow.

KA: Professor Mick Gidley, thank you.

MG: Thank you for allowing me to be so self-indulgent.

Travel Award Reports

BAAS Short-Term Travel Award

I recently undertook a research visit to Salt Lake City in Utah as part of my American History PhD investigation into the social and environmental landscape of mid-nineteenth century Utah, having been awarded the Abraham Lincoln Prize by BAAS in the spring of 2012. The visit was of the utmost importance to the progress of my research, which previously had remained critically lacking in primary source material, over-reliant on the related secondary literature, and consequently immature in its development of an original line of enquiry. Due to limited funds, my trip to Utah would have remained largely impossible – at least within the time-frame of a full-time PhD course. It is therefore with a great sense of gratitude that I write this report, knowing that without the receipt of the BAAS Award my work would soon have encountered serious problems, with little chance of achieving the standard of thesis expected at PhD level. Indeed my research in Salt Lake City led me to a number of important research institutions where I was able to collate a wealth of primary and secondary material that will now allow me an opportunity to produce a thesis of that standard.

My first destination was the Utah State Archives, housed in the city's former Rio-Grande Railroad Depot; a quite beautiful building. As one might expect, the archives hold a collection of secondary literature much more specific to Utah than any I had been able to access previously, concentrating not only the State's more widely-known Mormon past, but also its exploration and settlement by other white communities through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as aspects of its Uto-Aztec Indian history. Analysing the footnotes and bibliographies of certain items within this collection led me to sources revealing white America's first impressions of Utah's largely desert environment during the early-mid nineteenth century. These included: the reports of Captain John Fremont recording his three explorations of the Great Basin region through the 1840s (Fremont being the first white man to recognise the Basin as a unique geological feature in the American West – absent of any outlet to the oceans); the journal of US topographical

engineer Captain Howard Stansbury, who surveyed the Great Salt Lake region during the early 1850s; the accounts of literary figures such as the distinguished American writer Mark Twain, who comically recalls his traversing of the desert during the 1860s in *Roughing It*; as well as the less accessible diaries of the region's first white settlers, including Mormon apostle Wilford Woodruff. Evidence with a more scientific approach surfaced with my location of John Wesley Powell's *Report on the Lands of the Arid Region of the United States*, which confirmed the desert landscape to be an environment substantially lacking in timber and water and largely un-conducive to 'civilised' settlement. Such records as these will enhance the first chapter of my thesis, conveying the apprehension, even repulsion (which these sources no doubt served in fostering) among some white nineteenth century Americans at the prospect of expanding the United States beyond the Rocky Mountains into a Western environment that so deeply contrasted the Eden-like Garden being portrayed by artists and writers in the Eastern cities of the Atlantic Seaboard.

My second and third destinations contained a more specific range of documents relating to the aforementioned Mormon community, which stands as a great exception when it comes to analysing mid-nineteenth century white settlers in their approaches to the American desert. Evidence located at the Special Collections Department in the University of Utah's Marriot Library (sited at the very foot of the Wasatch Range on the western edge of the Rocky Mountains) and also the Mormon Church Library (located opposite the city's famous Temple Square in the heart of the downtown area) suggests that Mormonism's identification with the Ancient Hebrews of the Old Testament encouraged its followers to view the Salt Lake desert as a spiritual homeland, where the community could gain protective isolation from its eastern persecutors and concentrate its efforts on the building of Zion - a great city with which to usher in the supposed Second Coming of Christ. Here documents included: Mormon produced maps of the Salt Lake Valley revealing the group's agricultural ambitions for the region; articles from the Territory's first Mormon newspaper *The Deseret News* containing the speeches of Church leaders instructing their followers to resist the temptations of the concurrent mining boom in nearby California; as well as materials relating to

the Church's Indian Farm programme through the 1850s showing how the Church intended to include local Indians, or 'Lamanites' as the Book of Mormon identifies them, in the expected apocalypse. Collectively this evidence reveals how Utah's Mormons intended to make the desert 'blossom as a rose' through the extension of an irrigated agricultural empire extending southwestwardly along a 'Mormon corridor' of settlement; a process which embodied an attempt to redefine the existing Indian landscape, both environmentally and spiritually, and ultimately claim the desert for the community's long-term occupation.

However, further sources at these locations suggested a more complicated situation whereby the arrival of non-Mormon white settlers in Utah through the 1860s led to a heightened competition for the region's limited resources, as the newcomers sought to use mining rather than agriculture to redefine the Territory's cultural and physical landscape. These documents included: the correspondence of Colonel Patrick E. Connor, leader of the California Volunteers and staunch anti-Mormon, who might easily be interpreted as Mormon President Brigham Young's arch-nemesis; the analyses of the mining industry by local social commentators including O. J. Hollister and Edward Tullidge; the prospectuses for such non-Mormon towns as Corinne seeking to encourage further non-Mormon miners to the region; and finally, maps produced by Utah Territory's principal cartographer, B.A.M. Froiseth, whose representations of the region exaggerate the State's vision for redefining Mormonism's agricultural landscape through the extraction of precious metals and minerals.

In writing-up this material I intend to incorporate evidence located in the online records of the Library of Congress and elsewhere relating to the creation of the Uintah Reservation (in north-eastern Utah) by Abraham Lincoln's administration during the early 1860s. This reflects US government concerns over competition for the region's resources with local Mormon settlers, whilst revealing the efforts of local Ute Indian communities to maintain not only their long-held definitions of the landscape, but also their control of resources in the hope of sustaining their seemingly fragile survival. As my thesis advances I intend to develop an argument proposing that

mid-nineteenth century Utah was a myriad of social, cultural and physical landscapes that in some cases collided, in others sought isolation, and yet in others, over-lapped. Indeed, the unique political situation in Utah Territory during this period makes it an anomaly in the study of US Western History, and stands not only as a principal reason for my exploration of the topic, but also why further scholarship of the region during the mid-late nineteenth century is warranted. Many thanks to BAAS for granting me the opportunity to study it myself!

Gregory Davies
(University of Strathclyde)

Funding Reports

The Annual Meeting of the British Group in Early American History

Universities of St Andrews and Dundee, 06–09 September 2012

The British Group in Early American History this year held their annual meeting at the Universities of St Andrews and Dundee between 6th and 9th September. Papers pertaining to the theme of “Joining People, Joining Places” were presented by attendees who had also come to honour the many contributions to the field by Dr Betty Wood - a founding member of the group - who this year retired from the University of Cambridge. In addition to the faculty and postgraduates from British Institutions in attendance the programme included a number of American colleagues, many of whom had worked closely with Betty over the years and who also wanted to participate in the celebration of her work in colonial southern history. The conference’s famously collegial atmosphere resulted in numerous lively discussions and a session on tackling the transatlantic job market was particularly appreciated by the many PhD students at the event. Next year the conference will return south to England, where it will be hosted by Professor Geoff Plank at the University of East Anglia.

Emma Hart
(University of St Andrews)

Reports from Eccles Centre Fellows

Sarah Carter (University of Alberta)

I was very privileged to be Eccles Visiting Professor at the British Library from 1st February to 30th April, 2012. It was a productive time during which I made significant advances on the research and writing of my project “Dividing the Estate: Gender and Indigenous People in the Canadian and U.S. Wests and Settler Dominions.” I found many rich and diverse sources at the British Library. A major focus of my project is exploring why single (white) women were permitted to homestead land in the U.S. West, but not in the Canadian West or other settler colonies. This has led me to examine British ideals of femininity that were transplanted and embellished in Canada and other settler colonies, and debates about their capacity and suitability for farming. Western Canada was deliberately crafted as a British colony beginning in the late 19th century (to distinguish the region from the U.S. West). There are many books, journal articles and newspaper accounts in the British Library that have helped me understand gendered dimensions of this goal, including journals such as *The Imperial Colonist*, and *United Empire: The Royal Colonial Institute Journal*. The British Library also has the only copies I have been able to find of *The Canadian Gazette*, published in London, where the issue of the rights of women to land in Western Canada was heatedly debated. I learned about the many colonial training schools that were intended to prepare British women for life on farms in the colonies. I discovered that Flora Shaw, journalist for the *London Times* vigorously promoted the settlement of British women on the Canadian prairies, and was an advocate for the establishment of a colonial training school in Manitoba.

I have not had such a sustained stretch of time for concentration and contemplation since graduate student days. Research trips usually consist of hastily locating and copying material. The length of time of this fellowship permitted me to read, absorb and to incorporate my findings into draft chapters. Many thanks to Phillip Hatfield (Canadian Studies) and Carole Holden (American

and Australian Studies) for assistance with the collections. Warm thanks to Philip Davies and everyone at the Eccles Centre. I am very grateful for this tremendous opportunity.

Alexandra Urakova (Gorky Institute of World Literature, the Russian Academy of Sciences)

During the period from April 11 through May 4, and July 3 through July 25, I was at residence at the British Library as the Eccles Visiting Professor of North American Studies. I worked on the project tentatively entitled “The Economy of Gift Books: Reconsidering Antebellum Gift Book Literature and Culture in Social Perspective”. The project concerns gift books, literary annuals that burst in the American literary market following the British fashion. Different as they were, they shared common features (such as specific genre and circulation, female middle-class reading audience, thematic and generic integrity, emphasis on ornaments and plates, close relation to Christmas and gift-giving culture) which make them an exceptional case study of the relationship between literary production and social practices. One of the main objectives of my research is to place gift books at the junction of different systems of exchange (economic, affective, erotic), and explore this complex interrelation in the context of social, sexual and racial issues of the time.

The BL proved to be a perfect place for my research. Specifically, I was planning to examine British gift books that served as models for their American counterparts. In the Manuscripts and Rare Books Reading Room, where I spent most of my time, I consulted a number of British keepsakes including *The Forget-me-not, or Cabinet of Poetry and Romance*, the first British annual (since 1822), and *Friendship’s Offering*, the second, and one of the most long-lived of the annuals.

I found *The Forget-me-not*, designed after the German *Taschenbuch*, particularly engaging and relevant for my study: the first volume still bears resemblance to the eighteenth-century almanacs (a calendar with chronicles of the preceding year's events and genealogies of the reigning monarchs) – a feature not to be found in any American gift book that I know. In *The Forget-me-not* I discovered a number of generic stories/poems, thematically linked to the annual's main subject (mostly memory and flowers), including those by a popular annual poetess “L.E.L.” (Letitia Elizabeth Landon). As a guide to British annuals I used Frederick W. Faxon's *Literary Annuals and Gift Books* (1973), a British counterpart of Ralph Thompson's *American Literary Annuals and Gift Books* (1936).

In the BL I also found a good selection of American gift books. Working in the library, I concentrated on racial issues reflected in gift books. Whilst the question of race and slavery is usually omitted in the mainstream gift book production aimed at the white middle-class audience, this is, of course, not the case in the emancipation annuals. The most famous of them was *The Liberty Bell*: it took its form after gift books and yet opposed itself to the elegant parlour souvenirs. *The Liberty Bell* associated slavery with gift-giving (the slave could not be only sold and bought but also given away; cf.: advertisement that one of the tales reprints with indignation: “To be GIVEN AWAY, a likely negro child of five years old; apply to the printer”) and yet at the same time described liberty as a gift the master should willingly award his slaves with. I found two very interesting *The Liberty Bell* stories, “Dinnah Rollins” by Edmund Quincey and an anonymous “A Morning Walk”. In both of them former slaves commit acts of charity, and, moreover, Dinnah Rollins helps and supports a white woman. I contend that these publications introduce a new ethical dimension to the question of race as rendered in gift books. The slave ceases to be a “thing,” a commodity to sell, give away and exchange as soon as she herself becomes a giver. The effect produced by these stories appears more powerful and striking than that of the usual rhetorical declarations in the emancipation periodicals (e.g. the slave is a human being like you and me). I was inspired to reread a famous story “The Heroic Slave” by Frederick Douglass first published in the gift book *Autographs for Freedom* for 1853 from a similar perspective. In this real-fact

based narrative, a fugitive slave and rebel, Madison Washington, who at first benefits from the help of a compassionate white gentleman, Mr. Listwell, finally becomes a person giving liberty to other slaves and giving a gift of life to the ship's sturdy mate, the narrator of the last (the fourth) part of the story. Such reversion of giver-receiver relations is worth studying within the expanded frame of the gift book economy, on the one hand, and against the American slavery background, on the other hand. In the BL I found a very helpful book by Kenneth S. Greenberg *Honor and Slavery* (1997) where it is persuasively shown that “the language of the gift was frequently the language of mastery” (66) and that “the gift relation was just as deeply implicated in emancipation as it was in slavery” (67). *Autographs for Freedom* challenges gift book economics in yet another way: “autographs” contrast with the usually anonymous fictional publications of the annuals and thus give a political dimension to the book by stressing its authors' responsibilities for their anti-slavery statements.

As part of my study, I examine the well-known texts by E. A. Poe, H. B. Stowe, N. Hawthorne, R. W. Emerson, W. Irving, L. H. Sigourney etc. published in gift books, focusing on how their perceptions were altered by the annual's framing, and to what extent their authors fulfilled/resisted the gift book story thematic or generic conventions. Therefore, while working in the BL I read a number of secondary studies on these authors (Hawthorne and Emerson in particular) that are not available in Russian libraries, including Richard Deming's *Listening on All Sides: Towards an Emersonian Ethics of Reading* (2008); Gustaaf van Cromhout's, *Emerson's Ethics* (1999); David M. Robinson's *Emerson and the Conduct of Life* (1993); Barbara Parker's *The Transcendentalists* (2007); Clark Davis's, *Hawthorne's Shyness: Ethics, Politics, and the Question of Engagement* (2005); Michael Dunne's *Hawthorne's Narrative Strategies* (2007). Among inspiring studies on gift theory and antebellum literary market that I discovered in the BL, I would like to mention David Cheal's *The Gift Economy* (1988); a collection of essays *Gift and Economy: Ethics, Hospitality, and the Market*, edited by Eric R. Severson (2012); another collection *The Logic of a Gift*, edited by Alan D. Schrift (1997); Isabel Lehuu's, *Carnival on the Page* (2000), and Lara Langer Cohen's, *The Fabrication of American Literature* (2012).

One of the big benefits of my stay in the BL was the opportunity to meet new people and establish academic relations. Working next to Philip Davis was a big reward and I am very grateful to him for all his immense and generous support, help, and advice. During my first visit to the BL I took part in the BAAS conference in Manchester (April 12-15). There I gave a paper related to my project, entitled “Dangers of Reading: Gift Book Tradition and Catherine Sedgwick’s ‘Cacoethes Scribendi’”. I am indebted to other speakers and guests of my panel for their insightful comments and suggestions, and to BAAS.

Paul Williams (University of Exeter)

My time at the British Library has primarily been spent looking at the archive of J. B. Rund, a New York-based writer and erotic publisher, who has donated an array of items from his personal collection of books and comics. I have been extremely fortunate to have access to these materials, not all of which are listed in the British Library catalogue. The North American curators – especially Matthew Shaw and Philip Hatfield – have been unflaggingly enthusiastic, helpful, and patient with my requests to see uncatalogued material from the Rund collection.

My initial interest in the collection was its wide range of material by Robert Crumb. Crumb is the most famous of the writer-artists associated with the ‘comix’ movement, a body of comic creators centred on San Francisco that began working in the late 1960s. Published by smaller presses such as The Print Mint, Last Gasp, and Rip Off Press, these comix were not distributed to America’s newsstands. Instead, they were sold via mail order, and through the growing number of ‘head shops’ which also sold drug paraphernalia, psychedelic posters, and incense sticks. Public interest in Crumb was reinvigorated by *The R. Crumb Handbook* (2005) and consolidated by Norton’s publication of *The Book of Genesis Illustrated* (2009).

My research at the British Library has addressed the controversial issue of Crumb’s depiction of African Americans. These representations reproduce several offensive black stereotypes which emphasise sexual voracity, primitiveness, and hyperphysicality. Crumb’s defenders have sought to explain his use of stereotypes with

reference to satirical intent and Crumb’s deliberate attempt to shock liberal readers, although the artist himself is reticent to discuss these images in any detail. This project will demonstrate the complex and changing function of racial representation across the entirety of his career, something that previous scholarship has not attempted. The resources at the British Library have been invaluable, including 14 volumes of *The Complete Crumb Comics*, six published sketchbooks, and an extensive range of the original comics that Crumb created and edited from the 1960s onwards. The British Library holds the series of trading cards that Crumb produced for Yazoo Records, of which “Heroes of the Blues” and “Early Jazz Greats” are of particular interest for my research. The comics and collected editions bear messages and personal sketches from Crumb to J. B. Rund, who published Crumb’s work in the 1970s. The British Library also contains the 1998 edited collection of Crumb’s letters and most of the biographical and bibliographical scholarship on his work.

In the course of working with Rund’s archive I have come into extensive contact with the world of underground comix beyond Crumb. Rund was a patron of all the major comix creators of the 1970s, and the quality and range of original comix titles he has donated to the British Library has led me to develop a new research project that is much larger than the one initially planned. I now envisage my next major project as a study of the English-language graphic novel in the long 1970s. This is a period frequently overlooked in histories of comics, falling awkwardly between the zenith of the underground comix and the mid-1980s media hubbub surrounding the publication of the seminal graphic novels *Maus*, *Watchmen*, and *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*. Nonetheless, the late 1970s was when the term ‘graphic novel’ (first used by fans in 1964) started to circulate widely to describe book-bound editions of comics running to much greater length than comic books sold on newsstands. It was also when comic creators were starting to be addressed as literary figures in the fan press, and when more formally adventurous and adult-themed narratives were being published in book form. This is the basis of my next project: the graphic novel before *Maus* and *Watchmen*, before that moment around 1986 when the graphic novel was in vogue. One of the case studies I am going to construct in this project will centre on Rund’s company, the Béliér Press,

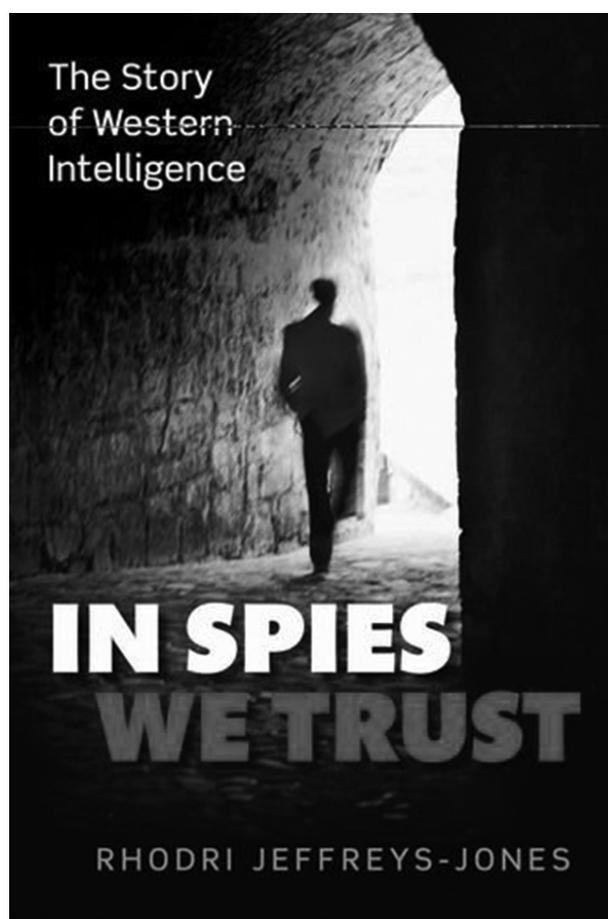
which published expensive, deluxe editions of comics in the 1970s: R. Crumb's *Carload O'Comics* (1976) and *The Complete Fritz the Cat* (1978), and Art Spiegelman's *Breakdowns* (1977). The Rund archive has given me unique insight into how Rund worked with Crumb and Spiegelman, and how these early graphic novels were marketed through the channels of pornographic publishing.

New Members

*Owing to the administration of a considerable volume of profiles, names and biographical information for new members of BAAS shall appear in the Autumn 2013 issue of *ASIB*. –Ed.

Members' Publications

Readers may like to note the new publication *In Spies We Trust: The Story of Western Intelligence* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013) from Emeritus Professor and Honorary President of the Scottish Association for American Studies, Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones (University of Edinburgh).



The outcome of a Leverhulme Emeritus Fellowship project, the book examines Anglo-American intelligence cooperation since 1909 and asks if the United Nations or the European Union might by now offer better options. For further information, and to purchase copies, please visit the Oxford University Press catalogue at: <http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199580972.do#.ULYn2q5dqTs>.

Members' News

We are pleased to announce the formation of The British Association of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (BrANCA). We are a new UK-based organisation of researchers, teachers, writers, and cultural critics engaged in progressive, interdisciplinary Americanist scholarship concerning the long nineteenth century. We aim to provide a forum for regular meetings, lectures, and reading groups, to host an online discussion forum, and to hold a biennial conference in the UK with invited speakers from the US and around the world. Our mission is to foster a new global network of scholars interested in drawing on the vast potential of nineteenth-century American texts to intervene in a variety of discourses and pressing issues.

Our inaugural symposium, 'Aesthetics/Politics', will take place at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England on 1-2 November 2013. Please visit www.branca.org.uk for more details and follow the link to become a member.

Organisers:

Hilary Emmett (University of East Anglia)
Michael Jonik (University of Sussex)
Peter Riley (University of Oxford)
Mark Storey (University of Warwick)
Tom F. Wright (University of Sussex)

BAAS Membership of Committees

(including co-opted members and
invited observers)

Executive Committee

elected:

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Ms Jane Rawson

Mrs Susan Reid

BAAS representative to EAAS

Dr. Theresa Saxon (terms ends 2017)*
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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–

* Indicates this person not eligible for re-election
to this position.

† Elected 2010 – 2012 to fill an unexpired
position; re-elected 2012 for a three-year term.

Elected for two years to fill an unexpired
position.

All co-optations must be reviewed annually.

Notice of the BAAS AGM 2013

**1600-1730, Friday 19 April 2013,
University of Exeter**

Agenda:

1. Elections: Chair, 3 committee members, 1 early career representative and any other offices that fall vacant before the AGM
2. Treasurer's report
3. Chair's report
4. Report of the Conference Sub-Committee, and Annual Conferences 2012-2014
5. Report of the Publications Sub-Committee
6. Report of the Development Sub-Committee
7. Report of the Awards Sub-Committee
8. Report of the Libraries and Resources Sub-Committee
9. Report of the Representative to EAAS
10. Any other business

At the 2013 AGM, elections will be held for the post of Chair, for three positions on the Committee (three year terms), for one early career representative (2 year term) and for any other offices that fall vacant before the AGM. Current incumbents of these positions may stand for re-election if not disbarred by the Constitution's limits on length of continuous service in Committee posts.

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

The procedure for nominations is as follows: Nominations should reach the current Secretary, Jo Gill, by 12.00 noon on **Friday 19 April 2013**. Nominations should be on the appropriate written form, signed by a proposer, seconder, and the candidate, who should state willingness to serve if elected. The institutional affiliations of the candidate, proposer and seconder should be included. **All candidates for office will be asked to provide a brief statement outlining their educational backgrounds, areas of teaching and/or research interests**

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

Dr. Jo Gill
BAAS Secretary
Dept of English, University of Exeter
Queens Drive, Exeter, EX4 4QH

Tel. 01392 264256
j.r.gill@ex.ac.uk/jo.gill@baas.ac.uk

Chair of BAAS - Nomination Form

I should like to propose.....
for the above.

Proposer:

Name:.....

Institution:.....

Signature:..... Date:.....

I should like to second the above nomination.

Seconder:

Name:.....

Institution:.....

Signature:..... Date:.....

I confirm that I am willing to stand for election to the above.

Candidate:

Name:.....

Department/Programme:.....

Institution:.....

Signature:..... Date:.....

**Nominations must reach the Secretary, Jo Gill,
by noon on Friday 19 April 2013.**

BAAS Executive Committee (3 posts) - Nomination Form

I should like to propose.....
for membership of the above.

Proposer:

Name:.....

Institution:.....

Signature:..... Date:.....

I should like to second the above nomination.

Secunder:

Name:.....

Institution:.....

Signature:..... Date:.....

I confirm that I am willing to stand for election to the above.

Candidate:

Name:.....

Department/Programme:.....

Institution:.....

Signature:..... Date:.....

**Nominations must reach the Secretary, Jo Gill,
by noon on Friday 19 April 2013.**

Early Career Representative of BAAS - Nomination Form 2013[#]

I should like to propose.....
for membership of the above.

Proposer:

Name:.....

Institution:.....

Signature:..... Date:.....

I should like to second the above nomination.

Secunder:

Name:.....

Institution:.....

Signature:..... Date:.....

I confirm that I am willing to stand for election to the above.

Candidate:

Name:.....

Department/Programme:.....

Institution:.....

Signature:..... Date:.....

**Nominations must reach the Secretary, Jo Gill,
by noon on Friday 19 April 2013.**

[#] See BAAS Constitution 6 (d): Candidates for early career representative must have an institutional affiliation and be 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 in order to stand.

