

# American Studies

A tri-annual interdisciplinary journal sponsored by the Mid-America American Studies Association, the University of Kansas, and the Hall Center for the Humanities.

**Editors:** David M. Katzman  
Norman R. Yetman  
**Associate Editor:** William Graebner,  
State University of New York, Fredonia

## Editorial Board

Beth Bailey, University of New Mexico	Karal Ann Marling, University of Minnesota
Michael Cowan, University of California-Santa Cruz	Jay Mechling, University of California-Davis
Kate Delaney, American Embassy Berlin	Maureen Montgomery, University of Canterbury
Dennis Domer, University of Kentucky	Diane Quantic, Wichita State University
Gerald Early, Washington University	Eric Sandeen, University of Wyoming
D. Stanley Eitzen, Colorado State University	Ann Schofield, University of Kansas
James Farrell, St. Olaf College	Haskell Springer, University of Kansas
Richard Horwitz, University of Iowa	Albert Stone, University of Iowa
Mark Hulsether, University of Tennessee-Knoxville	John Michael Vlach, George Washington University
J. Robert Kent, Independent Scholar	Shirley Wajda, Kent State University
Frieda Knobloch, University of Wyoming	Ryo Yokoyama, Kobe University
Cheryl Lester, University of Kansas	
Sherry Linkon, Youngstown State University	

**Assistant Editor:** Cheryl R. Ragar  
**Managing Editor:** Ailecia Ruscin  
**Production Staff:** Pam LeRow, Paula Courtney, and Lynn Porter

## Mid-America American Studies Association

**Vice-president:** Matthew Mancini, Saint Louis University  
**Executive Director:** Kathleen Wells-Morgan, Hickman High School  
Columbia, Missouri

Copyright © Mid-America American Studies Association, 2001.

The appearance of the code at the bottom of the first page of an article indicates the consent of *American Studies*, the copyright owner, that copies of the article may be made for personal or internal use, or for personal or internal use of specific clients. This consent is given on the condition, however, that the copier pay the stated per-copy fee through the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc., 29 Congress Street, Salem, Massachusetts 01970, for copying beyond that permitted by Sections 107 and 108 of the U.S. Copyright Law. This consent does not extend to other kinds of copying, such as copying for general distribution, for advertising or promotional purposes, for creating new collective works, or for resale.

ISSN 0026-3079

**ON THE COVER:** *Patrons of the New York Public Library, Reading Room 315*, photographed by Diane Asséo Griliches from her book, *Library: The Drama Within*, published by the University of New Mexico Press, 1996.

# American Studies

## *The Library as an Agency of Culture*

*Guest Editors: Thomas Augst and Wayne A. Wiegand*

### **Articles**

<b>Introduction</b> <b>American Libraries and Agencies of Culture</b> Thomas Augst .....	5
<b>The Sound of the Civic: Reading Noise at the New York Public Library</b> Ari Kelman .....	23
<b>High Culture, Low Culture: The Singular Duality of the Library of Congress</b> Elizabeth Jane Aikin .....	43
<b>Home Libraries and the Institutionalization of Everyday Practices Among Antebellum New Englanders</b> Ronald J. Zboray and Mary Saracino Zboray .....	63
<b>Reading <i>versus</i> the Red Bull: Cultural Constructions of Democracy and the Public Library in Cold War Wisconsin</b> Christine Pawley .....	87
<b>The Celebration of Health in the Celebration Library</b> Juris Dilevko and Lisa Gottlieb .....	105
<b>Exploring the American Idea at the New York Public Library</b> Jean L. Preer .....	135
<b>"We Have Become Too Tender-Hearted": The Language of Gender in the Public Library, 1880-1920</b> Jacalyn Eddy .....	155
<b>The Roosevelt Presidential Library: A Shift in Commemoration</b> Benjamin Hufbauer .....	173
<i>Research Note</i> <b>Antebellum Libraries in Richmond and New Orleans and the Search for the Practices and Preferences of "Real" Readers</b> Emily B. Todd .....	195
<b>Notes on Contributors</b> .....	4