

American Studies

with **American Studies International**



Fall/Winter 2009

Volume 50, Number 3/4

MAASA Membership for 2009

Membership in the Mid-America American Studies Association includes a subscription to the quarterly *American Studies* (including *American Studies International*) and to the electronic edition of the *MAASA Newsletter*.

Regular Membership.....	\$35.00
Emeritus Membership.....	\$20.00
Student Membership.....	\$12.00
(requires verification)	
International Postage.....	(add) \$14.00
Institutional subscription to <i>American Studies</i>	\$50.00
International Postage.....	(add) \$14.00

Current Single Issue: \$14.00. **Single Back Issues:** \$16.00. MAASA members and *American Studies* subscribers: \$12.00. Double Back Issues: \$25.00. MAASA members and *American Studies* subscribers: \$20.00. Orders of ten or more: 20% discount. Overseas back issue orders will be billed for postage.

Make checks payable to MAASA and send to Managing Editor, *American Studies*, 1440 Jayhawk Blvd., Bailey 213, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-7545.

Guidelines for Contributors

Format and style of submissions: Please include a cover letter, providing your preferred address, telephone number, e-mail, the manuscript title, and any other important information. Manuscripts (including endnotes, tables, and references) should be double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides. Because *American Studies* uses a double-blind review process, contributors are asked not to put their names on manuscripts; only the title should appear on the manuscript. Contributors agree upon submission that manuscripts submitted to *American Studies* will not be submitted for publication elsewhere while under review by *American Studies*.

Form of submission: We encourage authors to submit manuscripts (with a 100 word abstract) electronically, preferably in Microsoft Word (Mac or IBM file format). If electronic submission is not possible, we require *four* copies of the manuscript, *two* copies of a 100-word abstract, and a computer disk (either Mac or IBM file format) containing the manuscript. Disks will not be returned.

For electronic submission: asjo@ku.edu.

For hard copy: Assistant Editor, *American Studies*, 1440 Jayhawk Blvd., Bailey 213, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-7545.

Web Site

<http://journals.ku.edu/amerstud>

American Studies

with American Studies International

A quarterly 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
Sherrie J. Tucker
Randal Maurice Jelks
Norman R. Yetman, Editor Emeritus

Editorial Board

Thomas Augst, New York University
Michael Cowan, University of California, Santa Cruz
Kate Delaney, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Dennis Domer, University of Kansas
Jonathan Earle, University of Kansas
Gerald Early, Washington University
James Farrell, St. Olaf College
Daniele Fiorentino, University of Macerata
Iris Smith Fischer, University of Kansas
Doris Friedensohn, New Jersey City University
William Graebner, State University of New York at Fredonia
Mark Hulsether, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
J. Robert Kent, Independent Scholar
Frieda Knobloch, University of Wyoming
Angel Kwolek-Folland, University of Florida

Cheryl Lester, University of Kansas
Sherry Linkon, Youngstown State University
Karal Ann Marling, University of Minnesota
Carol Mason, Oklahoma State University
Jay Mechling, University of California, Davis
Bernard Mergen, George Washington University
Joane Nagel, University of Kansas
Eric Porter, University of California, Santa Cruz
David Roediger, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Eric Sandeen, University of Wyoming
David Sanjek, University of Salford
Alex Seago, Richmond, The American International University in London
Shirley Wajda, Kent State University
Ryo Yokoyama, Kobe University

Assistant Editor: Ailecia Ruscin
Managing Editor: Ora C. McWilliams, Rachel A. Vaughn
Production and Editorial Assistant: Jeong Park
Production Staff: Pam LeRow and Paula Courtney

Mid-America American Studies Association

President: Kathryn Kuhn, Saint Louis University
Vice-President: Jane Simonsen, Augustana College
Secretary: Nelson Hathcock, St. Xavier University
Executive Director: Kathleen Wells-Morgan, Hickman High School
Columbia, Missouri

Copyright © Mid-America American Studies Association, 2010.

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: Illustration from the *Better Homes and Gardens Barbecue Book*. Image courtesy of Meredith Corporation, all rights reserved. See the article by Kristin Matthews, “One Nation Over Coals: Cold War Nationalism and the Barbecue” on page 5 of this issue.

American Studies

with **American Studies International**

Articles

One Nation Over Coals: Cold War Nationalism and the Barbecue Kristin Matthews	5
When Modernism Was Still Radical: The Design Laboratory and the Cultural Politics of Depression-Era America Shannan Clark	35
What Almost Was: The Politics of the Contemporary Alternate History Novel Matthew Schneider-Mayerson	63
Howard Fast's American Revolution Neil York	85
Black Presidents, Gay Marriages, and Hawaiian Sovereignty: Reimagining Citizenship in the Age of Obama Judy Rohrer.....	107
Review Index	131
Notes on Contributors	4

Notes on Contributors

Shannan Clark is an Assistant Professor of History at Montclair State University. His forthcoming book, *The Creative Class: White-Collar Workers and the Making of America's Culture of Consumer Capitalism*, will be published in 2012 by Oxford University Press.

Kristin L. Matthews is an associate professor of American literature and incoming director of the American Studies Program at Brigham Young University. Her current book project examines the politics of reading in Cold War American literature and culture, and her writings have appeared in *Arizona Quarterly*, *Modern Drama*, *The Journal of American Culture*, *The Journal of Popular Culture*, *International Journal of Comic Arts*, *African American Review*, and the recent book *Pressing the Fight: Print, Propaganda, and the Cold War* (Umass Press 2010).

Judy Rohrer is currently a scholar in residence with the Beatrice Bain Research Group at UC Berkeley. Her book, *Haoles in Hawai'i*, was released in 2010 by the University of Hawai'i Press.

Matthew Schneider-Mayerson is completing his dissertation about the "peak oil" movement, online communities, and conservatism in contemporary American political culture in the American Studies department at the University of Minnesota. He has published articles on race in professional sports, Dan Brown and 9/11 popular culture, and the study of popular fiction, and teaches courses on American popular culture and politics.

Neil L. York is a professor of history and Mary Lou Fulton Professor at Brigham Young University. His most recent book is *The Boston Massacre: A History with Documents* (Routledge); his most recent article is "Imperial Impotence: Treason in 1774 Massachusetts," which will appear soon in the *Law and History Review*. He is finishing an essay where he compares the British dispatch of troops to Boston in 1768 with the 2003 American incursion into Iraq.