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Summer Reading Issue



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Photographs and other imagery often enhance the text and the journal considerably; the Editors encourage authors to provide illustrations with their submissions.

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This is the last issue that AMSJ Managing Editor Justine Greve worked on. She graduated this spring with an M.A. in American Studies from the University of Kansas. The editorial staff would like to thank Justine for her hard work and excellent contributions to AMSJ over the past two years and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

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Dear *AMSJ* Subscribers,

Ah, summer: the season when academics box up their course materials, put away their books, lie on the beach for ten minutes, start planning next year's courses, wrap up the articles we didn't finish last summer, and order new books. As always, we editors at *AMSJ* think to ourselves: how can we best serve our readers? What do *AMSJ* readers need most from a summer issue of a scholarly journal?

We are delighted to share with you our newest feature: the Annual Summer Reading Issue. As many of you know, *AMSJ* consistently reviews books and provides book review essays as a regular feature of *AMSJ* and on the journal's blog (<http://amsjournal.wordpress.com>). However, we decided that it would be great to provide you with one issue annually solely dedicated to review essays and reviews, and we feel it is an important way to close out each academic year. Over the summer, you are writing your research, preparing courses and seminars, and attempting to catch up on your reading of newer books in the field. We hope this issue will help in those endeavors. We view the Summer Reading Issue, especially the review essays, as a way of discussing emerging themes—race, religion, sexuality, social class, housing, transnational concerns—through current books in American Studies as an interdisciplinary field. This issue also allows us to focus more specifically on the scholarship through the books that are already published.

We hope you enjoy this installment of *AMSJ*. Happy summer reading!

All the best,

Sherrie Tucker, Randal Maurice Jelks
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Assistant Editor

Justine Greve
Managing Editor

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Notes on Contributors

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Lerone A. Martin, PhD, is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Washington University Danforth Center for Religion and Politics. His book, *Preaching on Wax: The Phonograph and the Making of Modern American Religion*, is forthcoming on New York University Press.



AMSJ Editors Randal Jelks and Sherrie Tucker.