

Dear Dr. Tucker:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to revise my essay [ms #11-29] "The Science of Affect: Jacob Riis, Anzia Yezierska and the Modernist Turn in Immigrant Fiction," for resubmission to *American Studies*. I am so grateful for the reviewers' detailed feedback. Their attention to this piece has been invaluable to me in making this a stronger and clearer piece, and I do hope the attached, revised submission reflects my sincere efforts in this regard.

Listed in detail below are the main reviewer suggestions that I have addressed in my revision:

- **Reader 1** felt my explication of Riis's success as a "native informant" was well done, but wanted to see a clearer analysis of how Yezierska translates the immigrant experience to American readers in a manner that is similarly appealing and/or legible. I felt the strongest way to do this was not by tracing a path to her commercial success, which was vexed and fleeting at best (especially her Hollywood years), but rather by asking my readers to situate her work within the frame of the Harlem Renaissance, and its similarly successful appeals to the 'American experience' as one of perpetual exile for the raced/oothered body. By examining Yezierska's appeal within the context of this politically significant (and commercially successful) chapter of American literary history, I hope readers will be able to get a clearer sense of how Yezierska reached a wider audience, and how her "moment" as well as her methodology, was dramatically different from that of Riis.
- In response to **Reader 1's** desire for clarification and increased citationality on scholarship that engages both authors' desire for cultural retention *and* assimilation, I included more sustained engagement with the work of Aviva Taubenfeld, who discusses Riis's cultural retentions at length in her own work, and the words of Theodore Roosevelt, who praised Riis often for his successful assimilation into "an ideal American." In order to address this tension in the work of Yezierska, I included a more sustained theorization of excess as it pertains to her writing (and in fact, am considering tweaking my title a bit to reflect this change, perhaps calling the main title "Of Science and Excess," if such a change appeals to the editors in a potential final version). Although I could not find anything on Yezierska that engages these issues or even argues with me about this dual tension, I thought that delving further into Yezierska's own struggle-turned-strategy might help remedy the sparseness of useful critical interventions available on this debate.