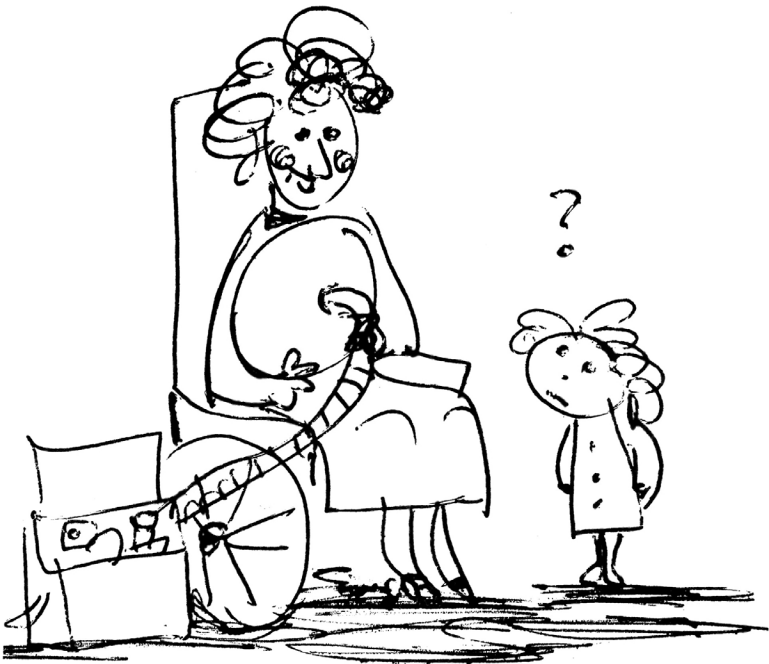


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# American Studies

with American Studies International



"BONNIE GETS ACQUAINTED WITH HER ELECTRIC MOM"

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Dear Readers and Subscribers,

The editorial team of *American Studies* is pleased to present in this issue our new *AMSJ* logo. This logo represents the new direction that the journal has taken as both a print and an online journal. Last spring we initiated the *AMSJ* blog ([amsjournal.wordpress.com](http://amsjournal.wordpress.com)) to publish articles on pedagogy and to re-publish outstanding book reviews and review essays from the print journal. In addition to these new additions, you will note that *AMSJ* is making the journal more aesthetically pleasing in another way by promoting the visual aspects of our articles and review essays. You will note in this issue more photographs and visual texts accompanying the articles.

Lastly, we are pleased to announce another formatting change to *AMSJ*. We have experienced several office moves and staff changes in the past few years, and, as a result, fell behind in our production schedule. Since that time, we have published a number of double issues in our effort to put the journal on chronological track. As we deliberated the reformats we wish to make to the journal the editorial team has decided to change our system of dating. We will now date each new issue by volume and number, not by year. The cover will list the year in which the issue was actually published, thus divorcing us from the preexisting dating system we inherited. This change frees us to publish without the impediment of continually back dating *AMSJ*, allowing us to more accurately reflect the emergence of new work. Please note that the volume and number will remain the same, only the year of publication will change.

We are pleased with our new direction and will be announcing to you our other new plans in the months to come. We hope that you will enjoy this issue as much as we have in putting it together.

Randal Maurice Jelks

Sherrie Tucker

**On the cover:** Bonnie Gets Acquainted with her Electric Mom.” *Toomeyville Junior Gazette*, Winter 1958, 13. Courtesy of Post-Polio Health International. See the article by Bess Williamson, “Electric Moms and Quad Drivers: People with Disabilities Buying, Making, and Using Technology in Postwar America” on page 5 of this issue



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## Notes on Contributors

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Hee-Jung Serenity Joo is an assistant professor of English at the University of Manitoba, Canada. She has published articles on Asian American and African American literatures, science fiction, and globalization studies. She is currently at work on a manuscript that traces U.S. racial utopias and dystopias throughout the twentieth century.

Andrew J. Rosa is an assistant professor of history at Oklahoma State University where he teaches a wide range of courses in African American History and is completing an intellectual biography of the sociologist St. Clair Drake. Rosa’s work on Drake has recently appeared in *Race and Class* and he has forthcoming publications in the *History of Education Quarterly* and *Journal of African American History*.

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(continued from p. 6)

Elizabeth Schultz lives in Lawrence, Kansas, following retirement from the English Department of the University of Kansas, where she was Chancellor's Club Teaching Professor. She remains committed to writing about the people and the places she loves in academic essays, nature essays, and poems. These include Herman Melville, her mother, and her friends, the Kansas wetlands and prairies, Michigan's Higgins Lake, Japan, where she lived for six years, oceans everywhere. She has published several books, which include *"Unpainted to the Last": Moby-Dick and Twentieth-Century American Art* and *The Last White-Skin Deer: Hoopa Stories*. Her scholarly and creative work appears in numerous journals and reviews.

Daniel S. Traber is associate professor of English at Texas A&M University at Galveston. He is the author of *Whiteness, Otherness, and the Individualism Paradox from Huck to Punk* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007). His current book project is on "culturcide" and non-identity in popular culture. His articles on American literature and popular culture have appeared in journals such as *Cultural Critique*, *Studies in American Fiction*, *The Journal of Popular Culture* and *The Hemingway Review*.

Bess Williamson is Assistant Professor of Art History, Theory and Criticism at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is working on a book-length project, entitled *Designing an Accessible America*, on the history of accessible design in the United States.

J.A. Zumoff has a doctorate in history from University College London, and was recently a visiting assistant professor of history at New Jersey City University; currently he is teaching history at the City University of New York. His previous articles on Dashiell Hammett have appeared in *Mosaic: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature* (2007) and *Clues: A Journal of Detection* (2008). He is working on a study of the relationship of the Communist Party of the United States and the Communist International in the 1920s.