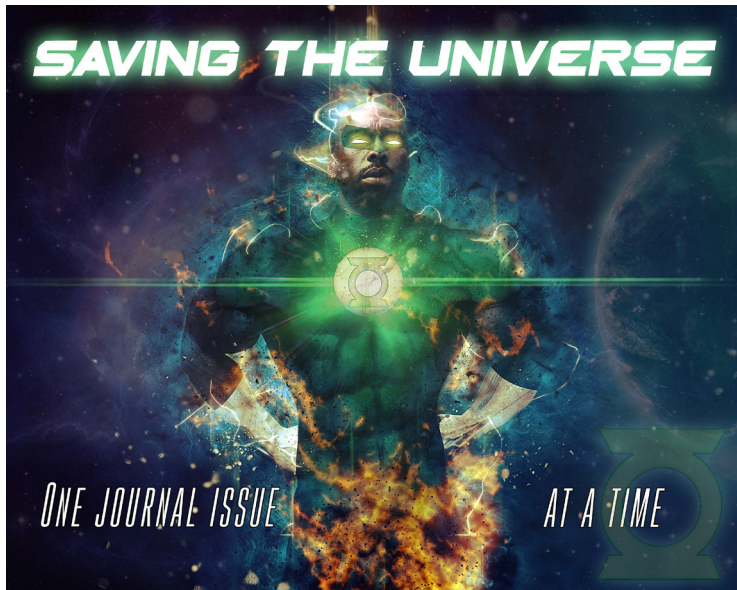


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American Studies

with American Studies International

*SUMMER READING
ISSUE*



2015

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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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American Studies

with American Studies International

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On the cover: Davarian Baldwin, editorial board member, as the Green Lantern. Photo by VisionMerge Productions.



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Notes on Contributors

Ahmed Afzal received a BA in Third World Studies from Vassar College, an MSc in cultural geography from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and an MPhil and a PhD in cultural anthropology from Yale University. He is lecturer in the Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Ethnic Studies at California State University, Stanislaus. He is the author of *Lone Star Muslims: Transnational Lives and the South Asian Experience* (New York University Press, 2014).

Bell Julian Clement is an historian of the public policies that shaped the twentieth-century American city and its place in the federal system. She teaches at The George Washington University.

Zareena Grewal is an Associate Professor of American Studies, Religious Studies, Middle East Studies, and Ethnicity, Race, and Migration at Yale University. A historical anthropologist, her research on the global Islamic revival cuts across the disciplines of American studies, anthropology, history, and Islamic studies. Her award-winning first book is *Islam is a Foreign Country: American Muslims and the Global Crisis of Authority* (New York University Press, 2013). Her forthcoming book is tentatively titled *Is the Quran a Good Book? Islam and the Limits of American Tolerance*.

Karen Park is assistant professor of Theology and Religious Studies and Director of the American Studies Minor at St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI. Park received her Ph.D. in the History of Christianity from the University of Chicago Divinity School. Her interests include American Catholicism, sacred space, and the negotiation of authority and boundaries in American religious life. She is currently working on a project on Marian Shrines in the United States. She can be reached at Karen.Park@snc.edu.

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Dear AMSJ Readers,

The editors and staff of *AMSJ* are pleased to present our third annual “Summer Reading Issue,” each page brimming with book reviews and review essays of newer books in American Studies and related fields.

The central theme of our third “Summer Reading Issue” is “Tableau Vivante”—or “Living Picture,” by which we mean a critical exploration of how scholars hailing from a range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives engage past events on the eves of commemoration in order to assess current social, political, and cultural issues. Review essays selected for the theme help us to think through the lasting implications of significant anniversaries: the Sesquicentennial of the (debatable) end of the American Civil War in 1865 and the political activism led by the Black Freedom Movement that culminate in the Voting Rights Act and the Hart–Celler Act better known as the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act.

In Zareena Grewal’s essay, “1965 and the Global Intellectual Life of Malcolm X,” a leading contributor to new scholarly conversations and analyses of Malcolm X’s work and life provides a valuable perspective on a selection of recent books that challenge prevailing narratives about the American activist. In addition, these new works, that draw from diverse methods and theories from history, ethnography, and cultural studies, pose alternative frameworks capable of “locat[ing] Malcolm X in broader intellectual histories . . . different global imaginaries and moral geographies” (page 11). Next up, Sarah Shrank’s informative essay, “American Body: Fitness and the Commodification of Exercise,” analyzes interconnections among new works in studies of fitness and food regulation for what they tell us about distinctions between private and public, physical bodies of Americans, and the body of the nation. Among the many anniversaries of 2015 is the fifty-year mark of the end of Vatican II, observes Karen Park, whose review essay offers a lively discussion of the American Catholic faithful as they faced the transformations brought on by Pope John XXIII’s Second Vatican Council.

These essays are followed by discussions of books that direct us toward questions of urban as well as the northern and southern theaters of the Civil

6 Letter from the editors

Rights struggle. Sunny Stalter-Pace examines books on the interesting mayoralty of New York's liberal Republican John Lindsay in the mid-1960s. We often forget today that at one time the Republican Party was a big tent and Lindsay represented mayoralty that believed in efficient and technological savvy bureaucracy long before it became fashionable with former mayor and billionaire Michael Bloomberg. Julian Clement's review essay "Turmoil, Hubris, and Hope" remind us "The current round of fiftieth-anniversary celebrations of the events of the 1960s are a reminder that the American civic conversation is still framed in Great Society terms." And further she observes " We delve into the Great Society record in hopes of understanding what produced the Sixties' great burst of political creativity and what led it to fade" (page 74).

Our other essays bring us to questions of immigration and globalization before and after the 1965 immigration act. Ahmed Afzal review essay titled "Intimacies, Relationships and Socialities: South Asian Americans in Racialist America in the Early Twentieth Century" takes a steps back from works looking at post 1965 South Asian immigrants. He argues These books provide important insights into the political economy of international population movements in the shadow of severely restrictive, if not prohibitive, racialized immigration policies. Indeed, the two empires—Great Britain and the United States—provide a critical historical backdrop for understanding the economic circuits that structured the South Asian migration. This scholarship shows how race, gender, sexuality, and the law were intertwined in shaping pre-1965 South Asian immigrant experiences" (page 60). Joan Weston's essays "Peculiarities of the Rural South: The Legacy of Slavery and Cotton Production" looks at the capital structures and the demands for African American slaves for cotton production and its continuous affect on contemporary Black southern rurality. Weston trenchantly observe "Because the social and political effects of globalization in the United States is typically associated with cities and industrial development in the North and, after WWII, the West, scholars have been slow to explore the economic, social and political impact of globalization in the South which began as early as the Transatlantic Slave Trade. New directions in research on the globalization and its impact across the globe must include the rural South as a region critical to understanding transnational processes and the ways in which the workers, consumers and the communities in which they labor and make their homes manage the structural forces shaping not just employment opportunities, but the quality of everyday life" (page 93).

A note on the photos: It has become a unique tradition of the annual "Summer Readings Issue" to present a selection of playful summer snapshots of our editorial board members, editors, and staff. In accordance to the "Tableau Vivante" theme, this year's images pay pictorial homage to a far-from comprehensive range of historical figures worthy of the field. "Bring American Studies to life," we urged our editorial community; and bring it they did, commemorating figures known and unknown, fictional and nonfictional, and those that call attention to the living history of the in between. Living stills include re-enactments of Malcolm X,

Billie Jean King, the fourth Wise Man, an anonymous Union soldier at ... Kansas, and Davarian Baldwin's remarkable "Green Lantern," which graces our cover.

We realize that summer is the time when many of our readers are focusing on their own research projects and writing, preparing courses and seminars, and attempting to catch up on our reading. Some are preparing for the job market, teaching tightly compressed summer courses, and/or even relaxing a bit. Review essays seem an ideal forum for all of these summer activities. While we are unable to provide a catalog of reviews of *all* of the exciting new publications pertinent to American Studies, we hope that our third annual "Summer Reading Issue" will be helpful, stimulating, and enjoyable to you.

Sincerely,

Randal M. Jelks and Sherrie Tucker, editors, *American Studies*

(continued from p. 4)

Sarah Schrank is Professor of History at California State University, Long Beach and the author of *Art and the City: Civic Imagination and Cultural Authority in Los Angeles* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009). Her forthcoming book, also with Penn, is entitled *Naked: Natural Living and the American Cult of the Body*.

Sunny Stalter-Pace is an associate professor in the English department at Auburn University. Her monograph, *Underground Movements: Modern Culture on the New York City Subway*, was published with University of Massachusetts Press in 2013. She is the book review editor for *Transfers Interdisciplinary Journal of Mobility Studies*. Her current research examines nostalgia and urban circulation in performance and film from the 1950s through the 1970s.

Joan Weston is a sociologist and taught at Ohio University and Oberlin College before joining the faculty of New College at the University of Alabama. Her research currently focuses on globalization in the South and the impact of War on Poverty and the Civil Rights Movement on the global retailer Walmart.