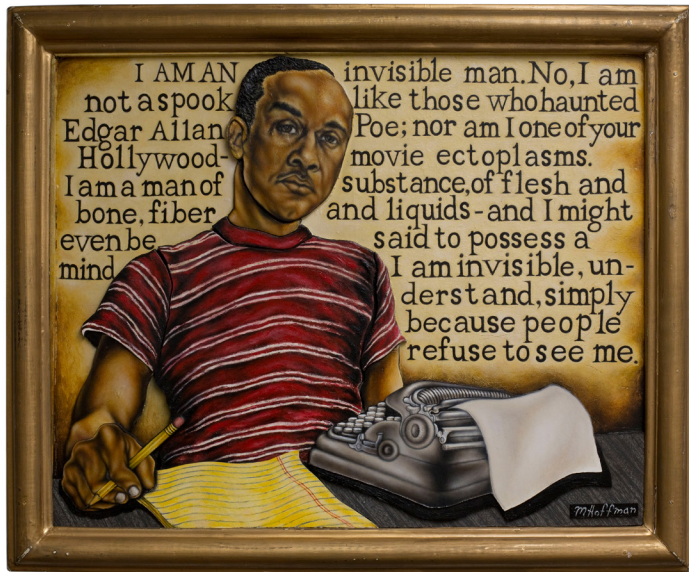


A
M
S
J

American Studies

with American Studies International

The Ralph Ellison Issue



Guest Editors

Matthew Calihman

Tracy Floreani

A Yemisi Jimoh

MAASA Membership for 2015

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 (requires verification)\$12.00
International Postage..... (add) \$14.00

Institutional subscription to *American Studies* \$50.00
International Postage..... (add) \$14.00

Current Single Issue: (any issue published within the last 36 months) \$14.00

Current Special Issue: Vol. 54, No. 3, "The Ralph Ellison Issue": \$20.00

Back Issues: (any issue published over 36 months ago) \$5.00 with paid postage: \$3.00 for up to two issues; \$14.00 for overseas shipping for up to two issues. Shipping of larger orders will be handled on an individual basis. Email Hannah Bailey at amerstud@ku.edu for more information. Quantities may be limited on some back issues.

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

AMSJ Online

AMSJ Home Page: <http://journals.ku.edu/amerstud>
Blog of the AMSJ: amsjournal.wordpress.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AmericanStJourn
Follow AMSJ on Twitter @AmericanStJourn

Guidelines for Contributors

Format and style of submissions: Manuscripts (including endnotes, tables, and references) should be double-spaced with one-inch margins on all sides. All manuscripts should be in a Word document, be between 20 and 30 pages, not including endnotes. All footnotes/endnotes should use Arabic numerals, not Roman numerals. All figures should be placed at the end of the manuscript. All manuscripts not meeting these standards will be returned to the author for reformatting. 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*. Manuscripts should be prepared following the most recent editions of Chicago, MLA or APA. All accepted articles not in Chicago format will need to be converted to Chicago prior to publication.

Form of submissions: We strongly encourage authors to submit their work using the Journal's online submission system. We encourage authors to submit manuscripts (with a 300 word abstract) electronically. For questions regarding submissions or the online submission system, please contact Alex Stucky at asjo@ku.edu.

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

Additional guidelines for contributors, including more information on submitting images, can be found at <https://journals.ku.edu/index.php/amerstud/about/submissions>.



American Studies

with American Studies International

A quarterly interdisciplinary journal sponsored by the Mid-America American Studies Association, the University of Kansas College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Department of American Studies, and KU Libraries.

Editors:

Sherrie J. Tucker
Randal Maurice Jelks

Editorial Board

Crystal Anderson, Elon University
Fernando Armstrong-Fumero, Smith College
Thomas Augst, New York University
Davarian Baldwin, Trinity College
Dawn Coleman, University of Tennessee
Clare Corbould, Monash University
Todd Decker, Washington University
Dennis Domer, University of Kansas
Phillip Drake, University of Kansas
Jonathan Earle, Louisiana State University
Gerald Early, Washington University
Keith Eggner, University of Oregon
Nan Enstad, University of Wisconsin
Daniele Fiorentino, Università Roma Tre
Iris Smith Fischer, University of Kansas
Stephanie Fitzgerald, University of Kansas
John Gennari, University of Vermont
Tanya Golash-Boza, University of California, Merced
William Graebner, State University of New York at Fredonia
Douglas Hartmann, University of Minnesota
Udo Hebel, University of Regensburg
Rebecca Hill, Kennesaw State University
Mark Hulsether, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Serenity Joo, University of Manitoba
Frieda Knobloch, University of Wyoming
Cheryl Lester, University of Kansas
Tiffany Ana López, University of California, Riverside
Carol Mason, University of Kentucky
Joane Nagel, University of Kansas
Fiona Ngô, University of Illinois
Champaign-Urbana
Eric Porter, University of California, Santa Cruz
Sonnet Retman, University of Washington
David Roediger, University of Kansas
Wilfried Rausser, Bielefeld University
Eric Sandeen, University of Wyoming
Alex Seago, Richmond, The American International University in London
Jane Simonsen, Augustana College
Carolyn Thomas, University of California, Davis
Elizabeth Van Arragon, Calvin College
Travis Vogan, University of Iowa
Shirley Wajda, Michigan State University Museum
Deborah Whaley, University of Iowa
Psyche Williams-Forsen, University of Maryland

Assistant Editor:

Trevor Grizzell

Managing Editor:

Hannah Bailey

Production and

Editorial Assistant: Elizabeth Stigler

Production Staff:

Pam LeRow and Paula Courtney

Art Consultant:

Carla Tilghman

Mid-America American Studies Association

President: Ben Looker, St. Louis University
Vice President: John Kinder, Oklahoma State University
Treasurer: Michael Krysko, Kansas State University
Secretary: Thomas Oates, University of Iowa
Executive Director: F. Walter Kihm, Public Accountant, LLC

Copyright © Mid-America American Studies Association, 2015.

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: Mike Hoffman, *Ralph Ellison, Literary Lion* (2013). Used by permission of the artist. Photo by Brett Deering.

Guest Editors: Matthew Calihman, Missouri State University
Tracy Floreani, Oklahoma City University
A Yemisi Jimoh, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Guest Editor's introduction5

Articles

Blueprints: Invisible Man and the Housing Act of 1949
Myka Tucker Abramson9

"Fighting Words": Ralph Ellison and Len Zinberg
Kasia Boddy23

**Pattern and Chaos: Ralph Ellison and the
Federal Writers' Project**
J.J. Butts35

**Being Ralph Ellison: Remaking the Black Public
Intellectual in the Age of Civil Rights**
Sterling Lecater Bland Jr.51

**The Confederacy of Sages and the Agon of Black Power:
Ellison's Hidden Heart**
John S. Wright63

**Staging Political Responsibility:
Ralph and Fanny Ellison's Appeal to Visual Arts**
Lena Hill83

**"I Did Not Learn Their Names":
Female Characters in the Short Fiction of Ralph Ellison**
Keith Byerman101

**Ann Petry, Ralph Ellison, and Two Representations
of Live Jazz Performance**
Paul Devlin115

**"Black Is . . . Black Ain't": Ralph Ellison's Meta-Black
Aesthetic and the "End" of African American Literature**
Casey Hayman127

Personal Essays and Creative Commemorations

Opening Comments	
John F. Callahan.....	153
A Visit to the Village Elder: From Deep Deuce to Harlem and Back Again	
Phyllis E. Bernard.....	157
Sound and Meaning: Ralph Ellison's Record Collection	
Todd Weeks.....	161
Ralph Ellison as Neighbor	
Hugh Hawkins	169
Second Novel No End: An Open Letter to Ralph Ellison	
Horace Porter.....	175
How to Draw an Invisible Man	
Terrance Hayes	185
<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	187