

**Studying “America?” Critical Conjunctions for the 21st Century  
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas  
Conference Schedule**

**Thursday, March 25**

5-7 p.m. David Katzman Retirement Reception and Keynote Address  
Spencer Art Museum Courtyard & Auditorium  
Sponsored by University of Kansas Department of American  
Studies

**Friday, March 26 (Sessions at Oread Hotel, lower level unless otherwise noted)**

8-9 a.m. Packet pick-up, Oread Hotel  
Continental Breakfast, Griffith Room

**Session I 9-10:45 a.m.**

**Griffith Ballroom:** Roundtable: "American Studies and American Studies: A Half-Century Retrospective"

Moderator: Ann Schofield, University of Kansas

Panelists:

Mark D. Hulsether, University of Tennessee

Rich Horwitz, Coastal Institute

Shirley Wajda, Girl Historian or, Independent Scholar and Bonne  
Vivante

**Gathering Room 1:** Engaging Histories in the Study of “America”

Moderator: Norton Wheeler, Missouri Southern State University  
Papers:

*The “Dear Diane” Letters and the Bintel Brief: the Experiences of Chinese and Jewish Immigrant Women in Encountering America*

Hong Cai, University of Kansas

*Joaquin Murieta: John Rollin Ridge’s Subversion of Criminality and Patriotism Within a Post-U.S.-Mexican War California*  
Jarrod Roark, University of Missouri-Kansas City

*Ad Women in America: Historical Sources and Evaluation*  
Juliann Sivulka, Waseda University

**Gathering Room 2:** Disability Studies and American Studies I: Intersecting Investigations in the 21st Century

Moderator: Tanya Hart, University of Kansas

Papers:

*Disability and Social Capital among the Highland Mixe of Oaxaca, Mexico*

George S. Gotto, University of Missouri, Kansas City

*AIDS: HIV-Positive Status in the Deaf Community*  
Brittany Morin-Mezzadri, University of Kansas

*Idealistic Bureaucrat: Joseph LaRocca and Vocational Rehabilitation in the 1950s*  
Ray Pence, University of Kansas

*From Forbidden Parenthood to Neglected Parenthood: Social Policy and Disabled Parenting across the United States and Sweden*  
Carrie Wendel-Hummell, University of Kansas

**Session II 11:00-12:45**

Griffith Ballroom: New Directions in American Studies: A Round Table

Moderator: Cheryl Lester, University of Kansas  
Panelists:  
Natalie Dykstra, Hope College  
Mike Ezra, Sonoma State University  
Cheryl Ragar, Kansas State University  
Richard Schur, Drury University  
Cotten Seiler, Dickinson College  
Helen Sheumaker, Miami State University  
Deborah Whaley, University of Iowa

Gathering Room 1: American Identity as a Tool for National Self Regulation:  
Perspectives from Cultural Psychology

Moderator: Glenn Adams, University of Kansas  
Papers:

*Representations of History and Identity: The Cultural Psychology of American Identity Maintenance*  
Phia Salter, University of Kansas

*Colorblind Constructions of American Identity as "Intentional Worlds" of Racist Oppression*  
Nia Phillips, University of Kansas

*Out of Many, One? National Identity in a Diverse Society*  
Ludwin Molina, University of Kansas

*Representations of Genocidal History as a Case of Collective Identity Regulation*  
Tuğçe Kurtiş, University of Kansas

Spencer Research Library: Rethinking the Politics, Power, and Practices of Archival Research

Moderator: Deborah Dandridge, University of Kansas  
Papers:  
*Reconsidering the Color Line: Archival Silences and the Integration of Black and White Baseball Histories*  
Sean Malone, University of Kansas

*Where Does this Stuff Go? Theses on the Present Futures of Archives*

Damon Talbott, University of Kansas

***This session will be followed by an opportunity to browse collections at the Archives.*** Featured Collections include the Wilcox Collection of Contemporary Political Movements, documents on the African-American Kansas City Monarchs baseball team from the T.Y. Baird Collection.

**LUNCH BREAK**                      **12:45-2 p.m.**

**Session III**                      **2-3:30 p.m.**

Griffith Ballroom: American Popular Music: Improvising Models and Methodologies

Moderator: Nicole Hodges-Persley, University of Kansas

Papers:

*Where's the Beat?: Towards a Musical Semiology of Rap Music through Public Enemy's It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back*

Chris Robinson, University of Kansas

*Jamband fans "get it" - Do you?: Affect, The Production of Space, and Phish Scene Identity*

Elizabeth Yeager, University of Kansas

*Weird Bodily Noises: Race, Gender, and Alternative Jazz History in Kansas City*

Pete Williams, University of Kansas

Gathering Room 1: Women on the Borders: Gender and Identity in American Regionalist Fiction, 1880-1920

Moderator: Susan Harris, University of Kansas

Papers:

*Regionalism and The Foreign Reader: Narrative Strategies in Kate Chopin's The Awakening*

Jordan L. Von Cannon, University of Kansas

*Firs, Fields, and Families: Revising Domestic Narratives in O Pioneers! and Country of the Pointed Firs*

Erin Conley, University of Kansas

*"When friends marry, they are safe": Rereading Marriage in Willa Cather's O Pioneers!"*

Jana Tigchelaar, University of Kansas

Spencer Museum of Art: American Studies and the Art Museum as Site for Research, Teaching and Learning: The Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas

Moderator: Celka Straughn, University of Kansas

Papers:

*American Studies and Art Museums: Intersecting Paths*  
Saralyn Reece Hardy, University of Kansas

*Facilitating Research on American Art and Culture: American Studies, Aaron Douglas: African American Modernist, and American Art in the Spencer Museum of Art*  
Susan Earle, University of Kansas

*Beaded Heritage*  
Nancy Mahaney, University of Kansas

*American Studies Perspectives on Works in the Collection of the Spencer Museum of Art*  
Kate Meyer, University of Kansas

**Session IV 3:45-5:15 p.m.**

Griffith Ballroom: Embodied Citizenship

Moderator: Richard Schur, Drury University

Papers:

*American Bodies?: American Studies and Physical Cultural Studies*

Jake Bustad, University of Maryland

*He ain't "one of us": Arab Muslims, African witch-doctors, American gangstas, Jumpin' Jim Crows, and the Politics of Reconfiguring the "African" in African American in the Age of Obama*

Joanna Davis-McElligatt, University of Iowa

*People in Me: Sarah Jones and Danny Hoch's Remixing and Performing Narratives of a Polycultural American Dream*

Nicole Hodges Persley, University of Kansas

Gathering Room 1: Roundtable: "Migration to Nowhere or Everywhere: Self's Place in/on the Internet-- Identity, Religion and Culture"

Moderator: Michael Krysko, Kansas State University

Papers:

*The Self in 140 Characters or Less*

Tyler Branson, University of Kansas

*Mennonite Activism*

Stephanie Krehbiel, University of Kansas

*Cultural Artifacts on the Internet: Ownership, and the Nature of Reality*

Ora McWilliams, University of Kansas

Gathering Room 2: Bold Women: Race, Gender, Class and the Art of Quiltmaking

Moderator: Alicia Carroll, Auburn University

Papers:

*Teaching the Quilts of Gee's Bend and the Politics of Aesthetics:*

*Confronting Race, Class, Gender, and the Art Market*  
Garnetta Lovett, Auburn University,

*Pivot the Center: Understanding the Transmission of Skills, Roles, and Essence of Quilting in the Black Belt*  
Denise Davis-Maye, Auburn University Montgomery

*The Quilting Stitches of Gee's Bend: The Use of Quilting by Researchers*  
Thereza (Tracy) Oleinick, Auburn University

**Saturday, March 27 (All sessions held in Kansas Union, Level 6)**

8-9 a.m. Packet pick-up, Kansas Memorial Union  
Continental Breakfast, Kansas Room

**Session V 9-10:30 a.m.**

Pine Room: Moving Peoples, Moving Borders: Rethinking Migrant Border Crossings in Contemporary US Cultural Production  
  
Moderator: Ben Chappell, University of Kansas  
Papers:  
*Representing the (New) Odyssey: Latina/o Literature of Border-Crossing*  
Marta Caminero-Santangelo, The University of Kansas

*Parenting and Gender in Youth Border Crossing Narratives*  
Gabriela Nuñez, University of Louisville

*Caught in Mexico's Border Zone: Narratives of Belonging and Non-Belonging in Sonia Nazario's Enrique's Journey and Cary Fukunaga's Sin nombre*  
Yajaira M. Padilla, The University of Kansas

English Room: Roundtable: "Degrees of Danger: American Studies Graduate Programs" (Sponsored by MAASA Executive Board)

Moderator: Milton Wendland, University of Kansas  
Panelists:  
Barrett Gough, University of Iowa  
Jaclyn Kirouac-Fram, Saint Louis University  
Tom Sarmiento, University of Minnesota  
Milton Wendland, University of Kansas

Centennial Room: Disability Studies and American Studies II: Constructing Disability in Public

Moderator: Laura Belmonte, Oklahoma State University  
Papers:  
*Dis-eased and Dis-membered: A Consideration of Alzheimer's in American Society*  
Susan Bussey, Independent Scholar

*The Intersection of Race, Disability, and Poverty in HBO's The*

Wire

Rabia Belt, University of Michigan

*Capabilities and Disability: What Justice Requires*  
Thomas M. Skrtic, University of Kansas

**Session VI 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**

Pine Room: Cross-Pollinating American Ethnic Studies & Women's Studies, A  
Discussion

Panelists:

Valerie Carroll, Instructor, Women's Studies, Kansas State  
University,  
E. Allen Eason, Kansas State University  
Cheryl R. Ragar, Kansas State University  
Gabriela Diaz De Sabates, Kansas State University

English Room: American Studies and/as Objects of Study: Applications  
and Interventions

Moderator: Deborah Whaley, University of Iowa

Papers:

*On Circuits and Nodal Points: How Urban Studies Speaks to the  
"Transnational Turn"*

Davarian Baldwin, Trinity College

*Applied American Studies: Tales of Uncommon Attractions*

Richard Horwitz, Coastal Institute

*American Studies as Reflexive Practice*

Ben Chappell, University of Kansas

Centennial Room: Reconsidering U.S. Theatre and Performance, 1870-1930

Moderator: Kim Marra, University of Iowa

Papers:

*Charles Peirce, Steele MacKaye, and the Role of Performance in  
U.S. Semiotics*

Iris Smith Fischer, University of Kansas

*Awakening and Unraveling Children's Dramatic Instincts in U.S.  
Theatre and Psychology, 1886-1929*

Jeanne Klein, University of Kansas

*Langston Hughes and the Great War: A New Framework for  
Understanding "The Colored Soldier"(1931)*

Katie Egging, University of Kansas

**12:30-2 p.m.**

**Luncheon and Awards Presentation  
Presidential Address, Jane Simonsen, Augustana College  
Kansas Room**

**Session VII 2:15-3:45 p.m.**

Pine Room: Contested Sites of Nation Building, Social Justice and Healing:  
Education in Three Americas

City Moderator: Mary Ann Wynkoop, University of Missouri-Kansas

Papers:  
*Haskell, Healing, & American Indian Higher Education*  
Christie Cooke, Haskell Indian Nations University

*With All Deliberate Speed: Freedom of Choice at Haywood  
Elementary School, 1968*  
Zanice Bond de Pérez, University of Kansas

*Affirmative Action in Another America*  
Maraci G. Aubel, University of Kansas

English Room: Race and Transnational Intersections during Times of  
War

Moderator: Jacob Dorman, University of Kansas

Papers:  
*"'Felt Just Like Home:' The Cultural Formation of the American  
Occupation Zone on the Rhine, 1918-1923*  
Vera Grant, Harvard University

*Real Citizens: Identity Politics and Military Recruiting*  
Brian W. Lagotte, University of Wisconsin-Madison

*Race and Transnational Military Comradeship: Nazi and U.S.  
Military Officers in World War II*  
Andrea Weis, University of Kansas

Centennial Room: Breaking Ground?: Cultural Geographies of Alternative Resource  
Use and Development in a U.S. Context

Moderator: Marisol Cortez, University of Kansas

Papers:  
*Offer, Wanted, Taken: Laramie Freecycle, The Freecycle  
Network, and the Re-spatialization of Everyday Practice of  
Citizenship and Democracy*  
Pamela Sari, University of Wyoming

*Diving for Food, Listening for Resources: Questions of Food  
Security in an Age of Surplus Production*  
Rachel Vaughn, University of Kansas

*Revisiting Michael Taylor: Contemporary Mutualism In  
Community Development*  
Keith Taylor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### **Session VIII 4-5:30 p.m.**

Pine Room: Intimate Relationships: Fertility Doctors and Infertile Couples,  
Abortion Clinic Clergy and Women Seeking to Terminate

Pregnancies

Moderator: Shirley Hill, University of Kansas

Papers:

*The Doctor-Patient Relationship in Fertility Treatments and the Effects on Patient Agency*

Ophra Leyser-Whalen, Haskell Indian Nations University

*The Work of Abortion Clinic Clergy: Consolation, Comfort, and Conflict*

Rebecca Barrett-Fox, University of Kansas

English Room:

Human Social Evolution, the Role of Culture, and the Practice of Literary Criticism: A Roundtable Discussion

Participants:

Cheryl Lester, University of Kansas

John Bruni, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

Anna Neill, University of Kansas

Centennial Room:  
Roundtable

University of Kansas American Studies Undergraduate Research

Participants:

Randal Jelks, University of Kansas

Scott Sheu, University of Kansas

Alexandria Murnan, University of Kansas