

Dear Subscribers to *American Studies in Scandinavia*,

With this issue of the journal, the faculty at Odense University, Denmark is taking over the editorship. We want to thank the previous editor, Niels Thorsen, for all the time and energy he put into editing *American Studies in Scandinavia* over the past many years. Niels did a wonderful job, and we will try to live up to the standards he set for the journal.

We are happy to announce that Dale Carter, Århus University, Denmark will be the book review editor of *American Studies in Scandinavia*. In the past, our cooperation with Århus University has been very fruitful, and we are sure that this will be the case with the journal as well. Dale has let us know that he wants to add to the present format a number of review essays on selected topics. Such essays will help keep us up to date with what is happening on the book market – something it is increasingly difficult to do on one's own.

This particular issue is a special issue on how interactive multimedia are affecting teaching and research in American Studies. The topic was inspired by a seminar taught by Randy Bass at Odense University last fall. Until that seminar, some of us had not realized the extent to which these media have come to influence our discipline and our jobs as professors. Before long, we learned, many of us will be using CD-ROMs in our teaching, we will receive student papers on a diskette, we will be communicating with our colleagues all over the world on the Internet, and we will be using the library and other research facilities available on the Net in our research. Will this change our discipline – and if so, in what direction? It seemed to some of us, for example, that the interactive techniques introduced on CD-ROMs makes for a much more superficial way of learning – that it encourages students not to do in-depth readings of texts, but instead to go off on many different tangents. It also seemed that the "official" picture of the discipline of American Studies presented to somebody browsing the Net, privileges certain sub-disciplines within American Studies such as e.g. African American Studies and Women's Studies over other, more "established" ones. It therefore seems important to discuss these issues now. It may already be too late, of course, in the sense that all of this is already happening at an enormous pace and anybody raising the slightest voice of caution will be condemned as an ultra-conservative technophobe. The risk is worth it, though.

Apart from the contributions to the Book Review Section and Randy Bass' article, all the contributions for this issue of the journal are from Denmark. We are very sorry about this. The problem has been, however, that noone from the other Scandinavian countries has responded to our call for papers on this topic.

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