

Editor's Note

As a special topic of *American Studies in Scandinavia*, this issue, volume 43: 1, presents Latino/a Studies with Ken Henriksen, Aalborg University, as a guest editor, introducing the area. A call for papers initially attracted quite a few abstracts which resulted in a number of texts, eventually reduced to four, a manageable number for a journal issue.

These four texts will be comprehensively presented and contextualized in Ken Henriksen's overview "Positioning Latinos/as Between Exclusion and Transnational Spaces," where he identifies the heretofore mainly neglected area of Latino/a Studies on the pages of *American Studies in Scandinavia*. This special topic continues a thematic series in which preceding topics were "American Spaces," "Transnational Strategies in Higher Education and Cultural Fields," and "Ecoliterature," to name the most recent ones, and the topic of Latino/a Studies will be followed by more: in the line are "Nordic Spaces in North America" as a follow-up of "American Spaces," volume 44: 1, and the broad topic of contemporary American history, culture, religion, and politics for volume 45: 1.

For the selection of texts in a special topic, maintaining the double blind peer review process takes time, space, and extensive networks. In Scandinavia, American Studies scholars are not that many, and if the number of possible peer reviewers is further restricted by the limitations of a special topic, such as Latina/a Studies in the present case, the region of Scandinavia easily becomes too small. In the search for peer reviewers, the knowledge area of American Studies thus turns more extensive, international, transnational, even if it retains its Scandinavian roots, which probably is the way it should be in the further development of this interdisciplinary knowledge area.

Nor is it evident that American Studies is a monolingual knowledge area. Already the rubric of Latino/a Studies tests the combination of Spanish and English. As will be seen from the texts representing this area, the two languages, English and Spanish, are also present in primary or secondary sources to respond to the intervention of languages inherent in Latino/a Studies, even

if the texts themselves are written in English. This is particularly obvious in Fredrik Olsson's text "Ballads Without Borders," which departs from a primary source in Spanish, *El corrido de Dante*, by the Peruvian-American author Eduardo González Viaña, for the discussion of Latin American migrant experiences in the United States. Furthermore, the exploration of Latin American experiences underlines both the transnational and the national in American Studies.

This issue, then, is primarily devoted to Latino/a Studies as an aspect of American Studies. However, one text, the fifth, does not immediately fit the template, even if it also concerns, one may argue, the transnational in the national. It is the text titled "Regeneration through Kinship: Indian 'Orphans' Make Home in Works by Linda Hogan and Leslie Marmon Silko," in which Elizabeth Kella reads novels by the two writers to follow Indian orphans and in this way "place Native thought and culture in critical relation to Euro-American social, ethical, and environmental practices." Thus her text relates to the discussions in the other texts about immigrant experiences, exclusion, the realization of a third space, etc., and the concept of the transnational acquires an added meaning.

An issue of *American Studies in Scandinavia* would not be complete without the reviews section. As previously, the editorial committee welcomes for review new studies by scholars from Scandinavian and other countries related to American Studies. The reviews included in the present issue offer an appetizing range of topics and ask for more: Dale Carter reviews David Ingram, *The Jukebox in the Garden: Ecocriticism and American Popular Music Since 1960*; Mark Shackleton reviews Peter Swirski, *Ars Americana Ars Politica: Partisan Expression in Contemporary American Literature and Culture*; Matthew Sweney reviews Jan Nordby Gretlund, ed., *Still in Print: The Southern Novel Today*; and Orm Øverland enthusiastically and extensively reviews Greil Marcus and Werner Sollors, eds., *A New Literary History of America*.

With this appetizer you are invited to partake of *American Studies in Scandinavia*, volume 43: 1. In the subsequent issue, volume 43: 2 you will meet topics like the mythology of World War II, pow-wow singing in Denmark, captivity narratives, film as melodrama, the subversion of nature ... But more about that later.

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