

Editor's Note

Albeit late, this is the second issue of *American Studies in Scandinavia* for 2010, or volume 42, and it fits into the pattern where the first issue of each year is a special topic, this year "American Spaces," whereas the second issue contains texts without any apparent thematic relations. Nevertheless, as we will see, the texts in this issue also resonate with each other.

If "American Studies in Scandinavia" implies American Studies by Scandinavian scholars, this issue confirms such a meaning: of the five texts and three reviews, all but one are written by Scandinavian scholars, from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. If the interpretation of the journal name would rather imply American Studies whose topic has a bearing on Scandinavia, that delimiting meaning is not confirmed. It is true that one review is directly related to Finnish American literature and another to Norwegians migrating to the U.S., but only one text, which discusses the impact of the American short story on Swedish literature, pays attention to Scandinavia in its American studies. If, finally, "American Studies in Scandinavia," refers to American Studies in general which happens to be published in Scandinavia, that is, in the frame of this journal, this is true of one of the texts.

For an issue like the present, it is the timing of the text proposals and the results of the double-blind peer reviewing process which decide the outcome and the final contents. American Studies in Scandinavia now has a steady inflow of text proposals, but for spread, variety and representation, more are welcome, to display the interdisciplinarity of American Studies.

This issue starts off with an instance of immigration media which provides insights for comparison far beyond the actual example. It is Benny Carlson who with "In the Service of Community: Somali Media in the Twin Cities" forwards background information for an assessment of their functions in reference to an immigration group. Out of his interviews with media workers in the Twin Cities he discusses how they spread knowledge about the new country, the old country, internally in the immigrant group and externally in the Somali diaspora.

Rolf Lundén's text also concerns the relationship between two countries, but here it is the literary relationship between the U.S. and Sweden. In "Direct and Indirect Influence: The Impact of the American Short Story on Swedish Literature" he identifies two peak periods in the Swedish short story, the 1940s and the 1990s, and in these periods Ernest Hemingway and Raymond Carver were dominant short story writers. His discussion demonstrates the multifaceted impact which those two writers had on the Swedish short story, both directly and indirectly.

Hemingway is also one of the two writers constituting the topic of Clara Juncker's text "Friends, Enemies, Writers: Dos Passos and Hemingway." In it, she describes a friendship between the two writers who embodied the post-WWI world of loss, disillusion, and modernist experimentation, its impact on the literary creativity of Hemingway and Dos Passos, its sudden breakup in the Spain of 1937, and the implications of their disagreement and quarrels on their literary work.

Maria Holmgren Troy spans a broader range of time periods and a broader range of life in her investigation of vampire narratives where a main character is turned into a vampire in the nineteenth century. She looks at Jewelle Gomez's novel *The Gilda Stories* and Alan Ball's TV series *True Blood*. And she finds narratives which elaborate vampire conventions and represent the nineteenth century in legacies of the past and its burdens of the present with comments on and assumptions of race, class, and sexuality.

Finally, Henry Chinaski, Charles Bukowski's doppelganger or alter-ego is Andrew J. Madigan's approach in "Henry Chinaski, Zen Master: *Factotum*, the Holy Fool, and the Critique of Work". He explores Bukowski's assessment of Protestant work ethic, American market capitalism, and how they affect the individual and society and also Henry Chinaski as the Holy Fool from the tradition of the Holy Fool for an examination of how the two issues interrelate.

The ways in which the five texts in this issue resonate in a random combination the reader is hereby invited to partake of. The editor is also happy to announce the special topic of the next issue of *American Studies in Scandinavia*: Latino/Latina Studies. The call for papers has aroused a considerable interest and the texts will span an area of American Studies hitherto not explored on the pages of this journal.