

# Contributors

**Alan Shima** is senior lecturer of American literature at the University of Gävle. He has written a book-length study on contemporary feminist theory and poetry and has more recently published articles on Herman Melville, Jamaica Kincaid, and Caryl Phillips. His current research explores the narrative strategies of non-fiction and the pedagogy of academic writing.

**Erik Åsard** is professor of North American Studies and director of the Swedish Institute for North American Studies (SINAS) at the Department of English, Uppsala University. His main research interests are American politics, media and political communication, and transatlantic relations. His current project is a study of American exceptionalism in comparative perspective.

**Raija Taramaa** is a teacher and works as an independent researcher. She completed a Ph.D. in English Philology at the University of Oulu, Finland in March 2007. Her postdoctoral research is focused on Finnish North American literature.

**Rasmus Rahbek Simonsen** starts a PhD program in English at University of Western Ontario in the fall of 2009; MA in English Studies, University of Copenhagen, 2005-2008 (July), Thesis: "*Song[s] of Absence*" – *Writing and Reading Fiction in a Post-Structuralist Context*. Traineeship, Dep. of English, University of British Columbia, spring 2007.

**Helena Wahlström** has a PhD in American literature; she works at Gävle University and Uppsala University. Publications include the thesis *Husbands, Lovers, and Dreamlovers: Masculinity and Female Desire in Women's Novels of the 1970s* (1997), and articles on masculinity and fatherhood in texts by John Irving, Caryl Phillips, Michael Cunningham and Paul Auster, on the relationship between masculinity studies and feminism, and

on gender and genre. A current collaborative book project, *Making Home: Orphanhood and Agency in Contemporary American Novels*, is funded by the Swedish Research Council.

**Orm Øverland** is Professor Emeritus at the University of Bergen. Research interests include American literature and immigration and ethnic history. His 22 books range from a study of Cooper's *The Prairie* (Universitetsforlaget, 1973), through *Immigrant Minds, American Identities* (U of Illinois P, 2000), to a translation of a Norwegian-American trilogy (U of Minnesota P, 2005). He has numerous articles in books and journals, in a.o. *Comparative American Studies*, *Journal of American Ethnic History*, *American Literary Realism*, and *Modern Drama*.