

# Editor's Note

The present double issue of *American Studies in Scandinavia* has been long in the making because of a shift of editors from Norway to Sweden, the set-up of editorial work, and the process of editing. My sincere thanks therefore go to previous editor Per Winther, University of Oslo, and to previous book review editor Arne Neset, University of Stavanger, not only for their good work in the interest of NAAS and *American Studies in Scandinavia* but also for their unsparing assistance in the transfer of the editorship. In addition, I want to thank David Nye, University of Southern Denmark, and Charlotte Granly, University Press of Southern Denmark, for their introduction to and help with the editing procedure.

The present issue offers four features: articles on U.S. literature, a speech from the NAAS Conference in Tampere, a special topic called "Transnational Strategies in Higher Education and Cultural Fields: The Case of the United States and Sweden in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century," and a review section.

In his text, Stephen Dougherty reconsiders the use of the car and the obsession with road travel in reference to *On the Road*. Michael Madsen discusses suburbia in Jeffrey Eugenides's novel *The Virgin Suicides* out of Freud's theories of The Uncanny. Robertson Jeffers's treatment of violence and war, his sense of Inhumanism, and a new sense of beauty for political neutrality, pointing forward to 20<sup>th</sup>-century environmentalism, are related in Peter Quigley's text. Per Serritslev Petersen investigates Dickinson's and Melville's attitudes to modernity from a Nietzschean perspective and finds close resemblances.

From this broad range of literary topics the present issue of *ASinS* takes us to Gunlög Fur's speech at the NAAS conference in Tampere, 2007, where she considers the concept of the United States out of a Native American perspective and suggests a redefinition of the scope of American Studies.

In the special topic on transnational strategies, Mikael Börjesson attempts to sort out Swedish students' choices and gains as exchange students in Northeastern U.S. Dag Blanck treats the American-Scandinavian Foun-

dation and the Sweden-America Foundation to discuss their importance for transnational exchanges between Sweden and the U.S. With a similar purpose Andreas Melldahl investigates the fellowships of the Sweden-America Foundation in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Finally, Bo G. Ekelund analyzes the Swedish reception of contemporary American literature with Paul Auster as a special case.

In the review section a number of scholarly works by Scandinavian scholars or related to Scandinavian topics are approached.

As editor I invite you to a varied choice of topics and texts in line with the interdisciplinary inclusion of *American Studies in Scandinavia*.

To look forward, the work with the spring issue has started. Text proposals have come in, and they are in various stages of peer-reviewing. Invitations are launched for text contributions through the channels of the national organizations to Scandinavian universities. Doctoral students are expressly approached this time, for the future of American Studies in Scandinavia. For the fall issue of 2009, "American Space" will be launched as a special topic.

**Anders Olsson**