

Editor's Note

American Studies is paradigmatically a multidisciplinary academic discipline, and so is the issue of *American Studies in Scandinavia* 47:1 (2015:1) now in front of you. As a Jefferson scholar myself, I am particularly happy that we can offer an article on Thomas Jefferson's historical thinking. I equally appreciate the fact that Tom Wolfe's great novel *Bonfire of Vanities* from the 1980s still inspires scholarly attention among Americanists, particularly given that it is now analyzed in the context of republicanism, as legendary historian John Pocock once upon a time characterized this important intellectual historical trend. We also offer interesting articles on Krakauer as linked to Thoreau and on American pastoralism as linked to, yes, sheepdog training! Finally, there is a fascinating article on Oscar Zeta Acosta's novel *The Autobiography of a Brown Buffalo* as viewed against the background of the now fashionable Chicano culture studies.

We are eventually catching up with the journal's official publication schedule, and you will receive both the issues of 2015 (vols. 47:1 and 47:2) during this calendar year. The next issue will be a compilation of articles drawn from the best presentations at the NAAS Conference in Karlstad in 2013. Whether a similar theme issue will be provided by the recent NAAS 2015 Conference in Oulu remains to be seen.

The journal enjoys a steady flow of article proposals from all over the world. A couple of months ago, however, we encountered the first plagiarized article proposal during my editorship. Thanks to the vigilance of the second peer reviewer we avoided the embarrassing situation of publishing this article (which was already accepted by its first reviewer as a first-rate piece of scholarship). The author of the article never answered the journal's request to offer his side of the story. He has apparently left his university job long ago. Nevertheless, we now have a lot of interesting articles in store for you in the issues to follow during this year.

The journal's book review editor is Professor Pirjo Ahokas from Turku. Should you encounter an interesting book and wish to have it reviewed or, better still, to review it yourself, please contact her at pirjo.ahokas@utu.fi

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