

# Editor's Note

This issue offers you a medley of articles with a heavy emphasis on American history and politics. The topics vary from Prohibition to President Kennedy's foreign policy, the legalizing of same-sex marriage, Leo Marx, Korean War films, and a case study of a Chilean author, Roberto Bolaño, on the impact of the international publishing business on the reception of foreign literature in the United States.

This issue is also my last one as the editor of *American Studies in Scandinavia*. They were a busy three and a half years getting the journal back into its normal publishing schedule and acquiring money for our publishing costs alongside my regular duties as a university lecturer in Oulu. Over the years, we have been helped financially by the NOS-HS, the Letterstedska föreningen, ASANOR (with their 2013 big endowment) and the NAAS conference organizations of both 2013 and 2015.

There are many people I wish to thank for their help over the past years. First of all, I send my warmest thanks to our Book Review Editor, Professor Pirjo Ahokas from the University of Turku. She has managed to feed us a constant flow of reviews, often on a faster schedule than it was possible to get them printed. Pirjo did a magnificent job, and continues in her position after I leave the editorship. As for other persons offering personal help and encouragement during the last three years, I wish particularly to mention NAAS Presidents Maria Holmgren Troy and Mikko Saikku, and I am grateful as well to the entire NAAS Board and the Editorial Board.

The actual quality of a journal is always dependent on its contributors, but as an editor my greatest thanks go to all those of you who acted as peer-review readers for our journal during the past years. The anonymous peer-review process often becomes tricky for the editor, because the experts so often disagree in their assessments of an article proposal. To offer the proposal to a third reader sometimes ends up only in one more request for resubmission with a number of new suggestions for further develop-

ing the original version. All our review readers either have a PhD degree (or equivalent) or they are previous contributors to the journal—the latter certainly qualifying also as readers after having gotten their own proposals through. In recent years, the proportion of rejected article proposals became quit high, at approximately 45 per cent. Most of those that never made it were rejected by the editor without the need to resort to the time-consuming peer-review process. On the other hand, we have enjoyed an increasing flow of proposals as well.

With Mr. Trump's presidency the need to explain America to itself and to the larger world will definitely not diminish. Hence I wish the best of luck and perseverance to the new editor, Janne Lahti from the University of Helsinki. It has been an honor to serve the Nordic Association for American Studies and *American Studies in Scandinavia*.

Vantaa, February, 2017.

Ari Helo  
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