

# Editor's Note

Welcome to the newest issue of *American Studies in Scandinavia*. We have an intriguing lineup of essays to offer for your reading pleasure, accompanied by a hefty selection of book reviews. And, yes, the journal also comes with a new editor. Thus perhaps a short introduction is in order. I am a Finnish historian (PhD in 2009) who specializes in the American West, Native American history, colonialism, borderlands, and transnational and global history. I currently research and teach at the University of Helsinki on an adjunct status. I want to thank Ari Helo for bringing this opportunity to my attention and for his invaluable support in getting me started. Ari deserves the gratitude of all Nordic Americanists for steering this journal. Ari's legacy is a well-functioning and respectable academic journal financially supported by the The Joint Committee for Nordic research councils in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NOS-HS). Under my "new reign" this journal remains committed to being interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary, inclusive to academic specialties as varied as history, literature, politics, geography, media studies, ethnic studies, culture studies, law, economics, and linguistics, among others. It also delights me that we currently draw a steady stream of manuscript submissions from authors around the world. Appreciative of this increasingly global recognition, *American Studies in Scandinavia* naturally also wants to vigorously be the journal where generations of Americanists from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden come together in meaningful intellectual exchange. I hope that all Nordic scholars interested in North America, its history, society, politics, and culture, view this as an important and inviting venue to publish their latest research, express their ideas, and build a sense of academic community. The quality of the journal ultimately rests on the quality of its writers and manuscript proposals. In this respect the current issue comes second to none. It starts with Øyvind Gulliksen's discussion of identity and the Icelandic longings of the American poet Bill Holm. Outi Hakola then treats us to a dissection of the HBO-drama *Treme*. Next we get Seunghyun Hwang's reading of Ted Lange's (from *Loveboat* fame) rereading of Shakespeare's

*Othello*. Then we move from American racial sensitivities to political rhetoric as Marta Rzepecka investigates George W. Bush's national eulogies. Escaping the confines of nationalism, Justin Parks describes Cathy Park Hong's *Dance Dance Revolution* in a transnational context, offering also a more personal note from a teacher's perspective. Finally, we have Orm Øverland delivering the context for the The Henry Wasser Travel Grant, an important new initiative from the Wasser family and the NAAS to offer travel funding for Nordic students attending American Studies meetings. Further information on the grant can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/site/naasstudies/the-henry-wasser-travel-grant>.

I hope you enjoy my first issue as editor. There is plenty more exciting stuff to come in 2018.

Janne Lahti  
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