

Editor's Note

In the media today the United States often comes out as an intensely contested society, full of dissent, disparate realities, opposing views, and competing truths. Frankly, at times it is getting harder to see what actually holds it all together. Amidst all these divisions, accusations, confusion, and slandering that has come to define the Trump era so far, it is rather easy to forget that the United States has represented a contested realm long before the current administration. It is possible to read US history as a succession of conquest, violence, rivalries, segregation, and exploitation that have seldom gone uncontested. The articles in this issue demonstrate, in their myriad of ways, how contestation is deeply embedded in American social realm and cultural fabric, in relation to racialized and lethal urban-suburban spaces, objectification and sexualization of immigrant women, transnational circulation of labor policies, or the careers of presidential images.

We start off with Chanhaeng Lee investigating urban-suburban demographic restructuring, racial divisions, and power behind the recent strife in Ferguson, Missouri. As he traces the connections between spatial reordering and the potential for racial unrest, Lee maintains that the circumstances in Ferguson are far from unique among modern American cities and that the potential for violent crisis stemming from inequalities of wealth and power remains very real. Hasine Şen Karadeniz also discusses the volatile connotations of urban spaces, evoking their unstable nature and tendency for chaos, fragmentation, and alienation in the work of Paul Auster. Scaling up from cityscapes to transnational circulations, we have the Øverland Prize winning essay from 2017 by Byron Z. Rom-Jensen. He shows how Swedish industrial precedence held the potential to shape American labor relations in the 1960s. Next Rasmus Sinding Søndergaard examines the contested images of President John F. Kennedy in Denmark, exposing the challenged, yet resilient, career of the so called Kennedy Myth. In our con-

cluding piece, Moussa Pourya Asl, Nurul Farhana Low Abdullah, and Md. Salleh Yaapar analyze sexualized representations of immigrant women, the acts of looking, in and through the writings of Jhumpa Lahiri.

I hope you enjoy these fine works of scholarship and find their deliberations engrossing and thought-provoking. As the current author roster once again testifies, *American Studies in Scandinavia* nowadays draws articles from pretty much around the world, without forgetting our Nordic base. If you wish to join this international discussion, please know that we are always in the hunt for engaging scholarship and that we strive for inclusivity. So what are you still waiting for? Email your queries and manuscripts to yours truly.

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