

Editor's Note

“American Studies,” Henry Nash Smith famously wrote in 1957, “is the study of American culture, past and present, as a whole.” The breadth of Smith’s definition is reflected in this journal. For more than half a century, *American Studies in Scandinavia*, has published cutting-edge and exploratory scholarship by academics both within and outside the Nordic countries.

After years of excellent editing by Finnish colleagues, not least Ari Helo, Pirjo Ahokas, and Janne Lahti, the journal now returns to Denmark. Yet, the goal remains the same: Providing fresh perspectives on a wide range of American Studies topics.

As such, the opening articles of this issue reflect the increased centrality of slavery and race within the field of contemporary American Studies. First, Kangyl Ko’s “Interracial Homosocial Bonds and the Interracial Heterosexual Romance in W. E. B. Du Bois’s *Darkwater*” explores the intersection of class, race, and gender in Du Bois’s multi-genre work, *Darkwater: Voices from Within the Veil* and in the process demonstrates the limits of Du Bois’ inclusivity in relation to black women. Next, Niko Heikkilä’s prize-winning conference paper, “Racial Myths and the Civil Rights-Era Ku Klux Klan,” delves into the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1960s and explores the myths that underpin the organization’s white supremacist ideology. Benita Heiskanen and Hannu Salmi, in turn, focus their article, “Lord Save Us from Champions Like This,” on the transnational aspects of American racial history with an exploration of Nordic racial stereotypes seen through the prism of Muhammad Ali’s famous 1960s fights against Sonny Liston.

Furthermore, Marija Krivokapic highlights the connection between Black history and American Indian history in relation to white supremacy, in her piece “Reclaiming Home in Indigenous Women Poetry of North America,” which details both the physical and cultural aspects of home-making as part of a larger decolonization effort. Adam Hjorthén, in turn,

explores the important themes of settlement, land, commemoration, and ethnicity in his article “Transatlantic Monuments: On Memories and Ethics of Settler Histories.” Hjorthén demonstrates the importance of positioning Native Peoples even more centrally in American memory and culture.

Lastly, Ari Räisänen’s article “Flanking Maneuvers” reveals the disconnect between the U.S. military and the American public through a study of Phil Klay’s works on the Iraq war. In doing so, Räisänen provides a deeper understanding of American conflicts both at home and abroad.

As incoming editor of *American Studies in Scandinavia*, I am happy to welcome onboard book review editors Marianne Kongerslev and Anne Mørk, who have already added their expertise to the current issue. Inspired by Nash and all those who have continued to blaze the trail, we are committed to maintaining our journal’s standard of excellence, and look forward to seeing firsthand how our contributors continue to challenge and expand the field.

March 2021

Odense, Denmark

Anders Bo Rasmussen