

COPAS 14.2 “Sentiment”

Editorial

After more than a decade of continuous enthusiastic work in the context of publishing the conference proceedings of the Postgraduate Forum (PGF) of the German Association for American Studies/Deutsche Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien (DGfA), *COPAS* is moving into new territories. We decided to add a new dimension to our mission of making the results of recent research on postgraduate level and beyond in the interdisciplinary field of American Studies available to a wider international reading community: With this issue, *COPAS* opens up a platform to present yet more current objectives in Postgraduate American Studies with a second annual issue that is published independently from the PGF and whose contributions are thematically assembled.

While the first annual issue will continue to be published as the annual proceedings of the PGF as in the last fourteen years, the second annual issue will be published in a rolling format in order to warrant the continuous topicality of the discussions surrounding the respective themes. Just like the first annual issues, the newly introduced thematic issues will rely on the double-blind peer-review process. In this context, we would like to voice appreciation for the dedication of all our readers, who have volunteered their time and expertise to this issue in order to help us guarantee the academic quality of the publications.

For the first thematic issue, 14.2, *COPAS* has sought to explore ‘sentiment’ in American Studies. In this context, we have encouraged to open up multiple perspectives on the subject from different methodological, medial, and topical angles in the broad field of American Studies, including e.g. literature, history, popular culture, media cultures, visual culture, political science, sociology, and geography, as well as from other areas that could be of interest to the American Studies community. With this topic, *COPAS* joins recent calls of Americanist scholarship (cf. Sturken 2002; Doss 2010; Orvell 2011; see also the title of this year’s ASA Annual Meeting “The Fun and the Fury: New Dialectics of Pleasure and Pain in the Post-American Century”) advocating a more vigorous research of affect and sentiments in the field of American Studies.

The first articles published in this issue address diverse topics ranging from the exploration of artistic practices in response to Hurricane Katrina and the 2011 Tsunami in Japan; to a reading of Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man* against the backdrop of the (unbroken) appeal of the sentimental tradition in American; to a critical perspective on the iconography of anger on the internet triggered by the verdict that acquitted George Zimmerman after the death of Trayvon Martin. Thanks to the rolling format and the possibility of ongoing submission and review it offers, *COPAS* continues to welcome contributions to this issue.

Besides the upcoming thematic issues, we are proud to announce a forthcoming special issue

that is being guest-edited by Sebastian Huber (LMU Munich). Entitled “*The End as Enjambement: Endings and Beginnings in Twenty-First Century Fiction, Theory, and Culture*,” this issue deals with a master-narrative of postmodern culture: the end. By attempting to go beyond what Fredric Jameson has argued is an “inverted millenarianism” which produces a variety of “senses of the end of this or that (the end of ideology, art, or social class; the ‘crisis’ of Leninism, social democracy, or the welfare state, etc., etc.)” (*Postmodernism, or, The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism* 1), this issue conceives of various ‘enjambements’ to tackle the pessimistic finality of such discourses. Next to philosophical considerations this volume also addresses ecocritical concerns, psychoanalytical theories, and issues in animal studies, and it inquires into the ways in which film, poetry, short stories, and novels in the twenty-first century proffer intricate answers to the question of what comes after the end.

COPAS is pleased to invite scholars of American Studies and related disciplines to contribute to our thematic issues and welcomes innovative and previously unpublished contributions from scholars in their advanced postgraduate studies and beyond. For the call for thematic papers, visit our website at: <http://copas.uni-regensburg.de/>.

We look forward to diverse new contributions to our journal and to the field of American Studies.

The Editors