



Nº 1, VOL. 1 SEPTEMBER 2006 ISSN 1991-2773

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TYPESETTING: Ex Machina Editions, Poland
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Review of International American Studies (RIAS) is the electronic journal of the International American Studies Association, the only worldwide, independent, non-governmental association of American Studies. *RIAS* serves as agora for the global network of international scholars, teachers, and students of America as hemispheric and global phenomenon. *RIAS* is published three times a year: in September, January and May by IASA with the institutional support of the University of Silesia in Katowice lending server space to the IASA websites and the electronic support of the Soft For Humans CMS Designers. Subscription rates for *RIAS* are included along with the Association's annual dues as specified in the "Membership" section of the Association's website (www.iasaweb.org).

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Manju Jaidka, Professor and former Chair of the Dept of English, Punjab University, Chandigarh, has been actively engaged in American Studies in India for more than three decades. She has been the recipient of a Fulbright postdoctoral award, two fellowships from the Rockefeller Foundation, and a Text Book Award from the University Grants Commission in India. The author of seven books (two of them co-edited), articles and research papers in India and abroad, she has lectured at universities and colleges in the USA and the UK. The chief functionary of MELUS-India and now MELOW, she is part of a team that organizes international literature conferences annually.

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Paulo Knauss is Associate Professor at the Department of History and Coordinator of the Laboratory of Image and Oral History at the Universidade Federal Fluminense, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Dr. Knauss is former president of the *Brazilian Association of American Studies* and co-editor of *Transit Circle – Revista Brasileira de Estudos Americanos / Brazilian Journal of American Studies*. One of his numerous publications is *Oeste Americano: quatro ensaios de história dos Estados Unidos de Frederick Jackson Turner* (2004), a translation of Frederick Jackson Turner's famous essays about the US.

Giorgio Mariani received his PhD from Rutgers University. He is Professor of American Literature at the University of Rome 'La Sapienza' and one of the editors (with B. Cartosio and A. Portelli) of *Ácoma*, an Italian triquarterly of American Studies. He is currently serving as secretary of the Italian Association of American Studies and he is also a member of the Executive Council of IASA.



He has written, edited, and co-edited several books, including (with Donatella Izzo), *America at Large. Americanistica internazionale e nuova comparatistica* (Milano: ShaKe Edizioni, 2004) and (with S. Di Loreto, C. Martinez, A. Scannavini and I. Tattoni), *Emerson at 200. Proceedings of the International Bicentennial Conference* (Roma: Aracne, 2004).

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Gönül Pultar is the founding chair of the Cultural Studies Association of Turkey (2005), and was the founding chair of the Group for Cultural Studies in Turkey (1999–2005) until it was dissolved to give way to the association (www.cstgroup.org). A graduate of Robert College, she received her doctoral degree in English at Middle East Technical University (1994). After an early career in journalism, she turned to teaching and has taught at Middle East Technical University (1982–1990); Bilkent University (1992–2002); and Boğaziçi (Bosphorus) University (2004–2005). At Bilkent University, she also served as the founding deputy director of the Center for Turkish Literature (1998–1999), and the coordinator of Bilkent University Seminars in Literature, Society and Culture (2003–2004). Dr. Pultar was a fellow at the Longfellow Institute of Harvard University in 1998.

Stephen Shapiro teaches American culture and writing in the University of Warwick's Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies. His study of early American textuality and trade, *The Culture and Commerce of the Early American Novel: Reading the Atlantic World-System*, is forthcoming from Penn State Press. He has co-edited *Revising Charles Brockden Brown: Culture, Politics, and Sexuality in the Early Republic* (Tennessee) and an edition of *Edgar Huntly; or, Memoirs of a Sleep-walker* (Hackett). His most recent publication is 'The Technology of Publicity in the Atlantic Semi-Peripheries: Benjamin Franklin, Modernity, and the Nigerian Slave Trade' in *Beyond the Black Atlantic*, Walter Goebel and Saskia Schabio, eds. (Routledge).