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special issue

BODIES OF CANADA

Conceptualizations of Canadian Space
and the Rhetoric of Gender

C-OR(P)GANISMES DU CANADA

Conceptualisations de l'espace canadien
et la rhétorique du genre

Guest-Editors / Editeurs Invités
Zuzanna Szatanik and Michał Krzykowski



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REVITALIZING RIAS

So, everyone needs to do something a little different once in a while. Sometimes that means being open to meeting new people, stretching yourself to learn something new, updating how you do something you've been doing in the same way for years, changing how you look, taking on new interests, doing things you thought you'd never do, and, in the process, learning amazing things about yourself that you never knew and/or couldn't have imagined. But doing it all differently also puts the spotlight on transformation, and although you can never know in advance everything that will come out of such transformation, you can certainly guide its course by developing a vision that reflects where you think you'd like to end up. This has been the work undertaken by the editors of the *Review of International American Studies* over the past year, since the last issue on *Modernity's Modernisms: Hemi/Spheres, 'Race', and Gender* came out in winter 2010. From that time, the task of revitalizing *RIAS*, to create a stronger, more vibrant and intellectually challenging forum for exploring and discussing issues of interest and importance to the membership of the International American Studies Association (*RIAS'* sponsoring organization), and concerned with the global, hemispheric, and transnational study of America and the Americas, has been the primary concern of the *RIAS* editorial team.

Cyraina Johnson-Roullier
Editor-in-Chief

One of the first signs of this transformation, as you will see in the current issue, is that *RIAS* has a new face, with

an updated graphic design that we hope will make it more aesthetically pleasing, not to mention more readable (thanks for this new design go to the tireless efforts of Paweł Jędrzejko, *RIAS* co-founder and Associate Editor). But this is, of course, not the only indication of the journal's ongoing metamorphosis into the new *RIAS*. The current issue, *Bodies of Canada: Conceptualizations of Canadian Space and the Rhetoric of Gender*, guest edited by Zuzanna Szatanik and Michał Krzykawski of the University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland, itself represents a bold beginning to the expression of the new vision marking the transformation *RIAS* has undergone over the past year, and will continue to undergo in the coming months.

Emphasizing a conscious recognition of the heightened importance of cultural understanding and community for the 21st century, *RIAS* will continue to reflect IASA's conception of itself as an organization dedicated to the regional, hemispheric, national, transnational, and global study of America and the Americas. In addition, however, the journal will seek to provide a forum for comparative and interdisciplinary dialogue and international exchange on topics of interest to the IASA membership and the larger American Studies community. This will include the effort to maintain *RIAS'* hemispheric and global commitment to publish work in languages other than English, as can also be seen in the current issue, which includes an essay written in French. In pursuing its professed global and hemispheric interests, *RIAS* will seek to publish work that is otherwise regional, national, or transnational. We will especially be looking for work that reflects global concerns and/or the examination of hemispheric or hemispherically inflected interrelationships in ways that can foster understanding or interrogate notions of America and the Americas, and/or reconfigure traditional understandings of American Studies. Of particular interest will be work that suggests the possibility of re-thinking the kinds of normalized, and often naturalized, boundaries that disable dialogue across disciplinary, cultural, national, and other kinds of boundaries and borders, as do the essays gathered under the topic of the current issue. By publishing such work, the goal of the new

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RIAS will be to find and open up new questions rather than close off debate, and to encourage dialogue, rather than re-articulate seemingly static truths. Our aim will be to keep *RIAS* as much as possible on the pulse of field, to interrogate new developments and re-think old perspectives, keeping our cutting edge—and yours—as sharp as we can on the intellectual journey we hope to share with you, our readers. Enjoy!

Cyraina Johnson-Roullier
RIAS Editor-in-Chief

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