



ABSTRACTS AND NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

PAUL GILES

World Literature and International American Studies: Convergence, Divergence, and Contest

This paper considers the relation between the institutional formations of World Literature and International American Studies. It compares and contrasts the association between World Literature and Comparative Literature to that between International American Studies and the American Studies movement emerging out of the United States. It goes on to argue that World Literature is anchored to a universalist teleology, one linked historically to an idealist intellectual genealogy. By contrast, International American Studies involves a more materialist, multidirectional emphasis that differentiates it from the US appropriation of globalization to further its own strategic interests.

Keywords: World Literature, Comparative Literature, International American Studies, Globalization.

Paul Giles is Challis Chair of English at the University of Sydney, Australia. He was president of the International American Studies Association between 2005 and 2007. His most recent books are *Antipodean America: Australasia and the Constitution of US Literature* (Oxford UP, 2014); *The Global Remapping of American Literature* (Princeton UP, 2011); *Transnationalism in Practice: Essays on American Studies, Literature, and Religion* (Edinburgh UP, 2010).

MARIA CRISTINA GIORCELLI

The Difference that Language Makes: A Response to Paul Giles’ “World Literature and International American Studies: Convergence, Divergence, and Contest”

Keywords: formation of International American Studies, World Literatures, academic politics

Maria Cristina Giorcelli is Professor Emeritus of American Literature at the University of Rome Three. Her fields of research are: mid- and late-nineteenth-century fiction and Modernist poetry and fiction. She is co-founder (1980) and co-director of the quarterly journal *Letterature d’America*. She has edited twelve volumes on clothing and identity (*Abito e Identità*), out of which the University of Minnesota Press has published

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four volumes under the title *Habits of Being*, coedited with Paula Rabinowitz. She was President of the Italian Association of American Studies (1989–1992) and Vice-President of the European Association for American Studies (1994–2002).

ULFRIED REICHARDT

Theories of the Global, Global Literature, and American Literature in a Globalizing Age

The paper discusses theories of the global and approaches to the concept of the world, presents definitions of literature in a globalizing age, and examines proposals how to approach world literature in literary scholarship, including ones that regard world literature as a system and ones that focus on individual texts. Finally, the essay argues that in our digitally restructured knowledge world, contemporary novels reflecting on the transformations of media and of knowledge formation have to be considered as versions of world literature as well.

Keywords: World Literature, globalization and literature, theories of the global, concepts of the “world,” digitalization

Ulfried Reichardt is Professor and Chair of North American Literature and Culture at the University of Mannheim, Germany, and was founder of the university’s Graduate Collegium “Formations of the Global.” His publications include *Postmodernity Seen from Inside: The Poetry of John Ashbery, A. R. Ammons, Denise Levertov, and Adrienne Rich* (1991), *Alterity and History: Functions of the Representation of Slavery in the American Novel* (2001), and *Globalization: Literatures and Cultures of the Global* (2010), all three in German. He edited *Mapping Globalization: Cultural Studies Perspectives* (2008, in German), and co-edited a special edition of *Amerikastudien/American Studies on Network Theory and American Studies* (2015). Currently, he is working on projects focusing on “Post/Individualism—American Culture in a Global Context” and “The Quantified Self.”

MARINA CAMBONI

The Limitations of Theory: A Response to Ulrich Reichardt’s “Theories of the Global, Global Literature, and American Literature in a Globalizing Age”

Keywords: Limitations of theory, globalization, global literature, American literature

Marina Camboni has been professor of American Literature and Culture at the University of Macerata and former President of the Italian Association for North American Studies. Author of *Networking Women: Subjects, Places, Links Europe-America, 1890–1939. Towards a Rewriting of Cultural History* (2004), *Words at War: parole di guerra e culture di pace nel “primo secolo delle guerre mondiali”* (2005), *Incontri transnazionali: Modernità, poesia, sperimentazione* (2005), *Città, avanguardie modernità e modernismo* (2008), *Translating America: The Circulation of Narratives, Commodities, and Ideas Across the Atlantic* (2011).

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CRISTINA IULI

**Figuring Atlantic Legacies:
Impossible Archives, Missing Histories, Literary Counter-Memories**

This paper considers how neo- or trans- Atlantic studies conceives of the Atlantic and its legacies in relation to the idea of the archive, that is, of a body of works related to traces of a trans-Atlantic American past, to its principle of organization and analysis for literary studies, and to the critical descriptions of American Cultures in the context of a long trans-Atlantic network. It addresses how recent works on critical race studies and decoloniality, on performativity and memory and on comparative circum-Atlantic spectrality frame an original way to address how the literary imagination challenges the historical voids produced by modern Western amnesia.

Keywords: trans-Atlantic; archive; critical memory; American literature

Cristina Iuli teaches American Literature and American Studies at Università del Piemonte Orientale, and at the American Studies Master Program of the University of Torino, Italy. She specializes in Twentieth Century and contemporary American Literature, in literature and science, in the theories and aesthetics of modernity and in literary historiography and Transatlantic American Studies. She is author of *Effetti Teorici: critica culturale e nuova storiografia letteraria Americana* (2002); *Giusto il tempo di esplodere: il romanzo pop di Nathanael West* (2004); *Spell it Modern: Modernity and the Question of Literature* (2009). She has published essays on Gertrude Stein, Gregory Bateson, Richard Powers, Don DeLillo, *The Big Lebowski*, Joseph McElroy, Nathanael West, on literary history and on Transatlantic American literature in several journals, including *Modernism/modernity*, *Arizona Quarterly*, *The European Journal of English Studies*.

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UGO RUBEO

**Building a Counterarchive: A Response to Cristina Iuli's
"Trans-Atlantic American Studies and the Transatlantic Pedagogies:
Some Methodological Perspectives and Questions"**

Keywords: archive, counterarchive, memory, Trans-Atlantic Studies, Cristina Iuli

Ugo Rubeo is professor of American Literature at Sapienza–University of Rome. His publications include a study of the cultural ties between the US and Italy (*Mal d'America*, 1987), a comprehensive analysis of Twentieth Century African-American Poetry (*L'uomo visibile*, 1990), and a close reading of E. A. Poe's only published novel, entitled *Textual Dynamics in Poe's The Narrative of A. Gordon Pym* (2000). Apart from a number of essays dedicated to a variety of 19th and 20th century American authors, from Poe to Hawthorne to James, and from Fitzgerald and Faulkner to Bellow and Auster. He is also the editor and translator into Italian of Henry James' *The American Scene* (Milan, 2001) and the editor of a collection of essays on Post-Modernist literature, entitled *Parodie della fine* (2015).

MENA MITRANO

American Studies as Italian Theory

Considering Roberto Esposito's narrative of Italian Theory, according to which Italian Theory first started as a US-based phenomenon and only later irradiated in other parts of the world, this paper explores the consequences of that narrative and the questions that it might raise for American Studies: Might Italian Theory rightfully belong to the Americanist's domain of inquiry? If so, what impact might it have on the identity of the Americanist? What is an Americanist? The paper argues that this new wave of theory illuminates the confluence of American Studies and critical thought, both involved in a simultaneous movement of deterritorialization that pushes them outside their established boundaries.

Keywords: American Studies, literary and cultural theory, Italian American Studies, Italian Theory

Mena Mitrano is an Adjunct Professor of Literature at Loyola University Chicago, the John Felice Rome Center, where she convenes the Discourses of Modernity Seminar, which is part of a new international network on Italian Thought and European Philosophies (WORKITEPH). Her new book, *In the Archive of Longing: Susan Sontag's Critical Modernism* (Edinburgh University Press, 2016), continues her investigation of the intimate link between modernism and theory. Mitrano is the author of *Gertrude Stein: Woman Without Qualities* (Ashgate 2005), *Language and Public Culture* (Edizioni Q 2009) and the co-editor of *The Hand of the Interpreter: Essays on Meaning After Theory* (Peter Lang 2009). Her essays appeared in *Modern Language Studies*, *Women's Studies*, *College Literature*, *Callaloo*, *Post Script: Essays in Film and the Humanities*, and *Modernism/Modernity*; she has also contributed entries to the *Routledge Online Encyclopaedia of Modernism* (edited by Stephen Ross). She serves on the editorial board of the *RSA Journal* (*Rivista di Studi Americani*), the official journal of the Italian Association of North American Studies.

CARLO MARTINEZ

Dispersing the Field as "Reciprocal Healing": A Response to Mena Mitrano "American Studies as Italian Theory"

Keywords: reflexivity, American studies as Italian Theory, literary theory, cultural theory, American Studies, the New Americanists

Carlo Martinez teaches American Literature at the Università "Gabriele d'Annunzio," Chieti-Pescara, Italy. The author of two books (one on Henry James's Prefaces, and another on Edgar Allan Poe), he has published mostly on nineteenth-century literature. Among his recent publications are a collection of Edgar Allan Poe's short stories (*Racconti Sensazionali*, facing page edition, Venezia: Marsilio 2014), and the essay "A Native Gone Tourist? Henry James, Travel, and The American Scene," in *Critical Insights. Henry James*, edited by Tom Hubbard (Salem Press, 2016).

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DJELAL KADIR**Agnotology and the Know-Nothing Party: Then and Now**

Belligerent ignorance has always proved strategic in the hegemonic goals of empire. The imperial history of the present is no exception. The Know-Nothing Party was founded in the USA in 1843, a pivotal year in America's history of territorial expansion. It was disbanded as a national political party in the no-less pivotal year of 1860, a year in which patriotic gore would turn on itself as the grossly misnamed Civil War. Nonetheless, the political and ideological tenets of the Know-Nothing Party endure with global repercussions in the twenty-first century. The literary and historiographic diagnoses of this deliberate bellicosity founded on the cultivation of ignorance have ranged from poetic to critical discourse starting in the nineteenth century. Nonetheless, in the twenty-first century, what the Germans termed *schrecklichkeit* ("ruthless terror") to describe the horrors of World War I continues to be visited on peoples and nations targeted by imperial hubris and economic rapacity through a cynical strategy of expediently manufactured ignorance.

Keywords: agnotology, doublespeak, empire, epistemology, hegemony, media, realpolitik, xenophobia

Djelal Kadir the Edwin Erle Sparks Professor Emeritus of Comparative Literature at Pennsylvania State University. He is the Founding President of the International American Studies Association and former Editor of the international quarterly *World Literature Today*. His authored books include: *Juan Carlos Onetti* (1977); *Questing Fictions: Latin America's Family Romance* (1987); *Columbus and the Ends of the Earth: Europe's Prophetic Rhetoric as Conquering Ideology* (1992); *The Other Writing: Postcolonial Essays in Latin America's Writing Culture* (1993) and *Memos from the Besieged City: Lifelines for Cultural Sustainability* (2011). He is co-editor of *Other Modernisms in An Age of Globalization* (2002); co-editor of the three-volume *Literary Cultures of Latin America: A Comparative History* (2004), of the six-volume *Longman Anthology of World Literature* (2004) and of *The Routledge Companion to World Literature* (2011).

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MANUEL BRONCANO RODRÍGUEZ**The Long History of "doublethink": A Response to Djelal Kadir's "Agnotology and the Know-Nothing Party: Then and Now"**

Keywords: humanities, state control, ignorance, American Literature, World Literature, world culture, American Studies, Comparative Studies

Manuel Broncano (Ph. D. Salamanca 1990) is a Regents Professor of English at Texas A&M International University. He is currently the president of the International American Studies Association (IASA). Before moving to Texas, he taught for two decades at the University of León (Spain). Broncano has published a number of scholarly works on various American authors such as Flannery O'Connor, Willa Cather, Faulkner, Melville, Poe, etc. His latest book was released in 2014, *Religion in Cormac McCarthy's Fiction: Apocryphal Borderlands* (Routledge). Broncano has also kept an active agenda as translator. His latest translation is Giannina Braschi's *United States of Banana (Estados Unidos de Banana, Amazon-Crossing 2014)*.

MARKHA VALENTA

Abandoning America the Better to Save American Studies: A Proposal

This paper argues that the most fruitful future for American Studies is one that subsumes it to global projects, critical sensibilities, political, intellectual and aesthetic fields greater than itself. Correspondingly, the prime referent of American Studies ought not to be a reified “America” but rather the paradoxes, tensions and contestations between democratic and inhumanely extractive relations that gave birth to and continue to shape the US/Americas, even as their reach and flow far exceed “America.” The US—as icon, social field and political actor—is as much the effect as the source of global forces. The most important of these today are ones that qualify, selectively dissolve, concentrate and reconfigure constitutive elements of the nation-state and political geography. Taking this seriously—as the US follows in the footsteps of other countries that have been producing one chauvinist strongman leader after another—means making American Studies not about either “America” or the US but about the world. One particularly promising avenue entails scholarship engaging and contributing to a radical, globalizing democratic culture that is, in fact, deeply aligned with some of the most important traditions and sensibilities in American Studies itself.

Keywords: globalization, democracy, politics, America, American Studies

Markha Valenta is an interdisciplinary, transnational scholar at Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands. Her work addresses the globalization of identity politics since the late 19th century, with an emphasis on issues of religion, world cities, materiality and geopolitics. A second project concerns the politics of Muslim minorities in secular democracies. Her approach is comparative, dialogic and relational, focused on the US, the Netherlands and India. In addition, she writes regularly for openDemocracy and participates actively in Dutch public debates on related issues.

GIORGIO MARIANI

Subsuming “America” to the “Global.” A Response to Markha Valenta’s “Abandoning America the Better to Save America”

Keywords: transnational turn, American Studies, democracy, internationalization of American Studies, refocusing American studies, globalization

Giorgio Mariani is Professor of American Literature at the Sapienza University of Rome, where he chairs the Doctoral program in Scienze del Testo. He served as President of the International American Studies Association from 2011 to 2015. He is the author, editor, and co-editor of numerous volumes on American literature and culture. His essays and reviews have appeared in journals such as *American Literary History*, *Studies in American Fiction*, *Leviathan*, *Stephen Crane Studies*, *Letterature d’America*, *Nuova Corrente*, *RIAS—The Review of International American Studies*, and others. His latest book, *Waging War on War. Peacefighting in American Literature* was published in 2015 by the University of Illinois Press.

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