

# Digital BAAS 2024

April 10-12, 2024

Draft Programme



Eccles Centre  
for American  
Studies



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS



## Wednesday 10th April

### 10.00 Registration/ “tea and coffee”

#### 10.30 -11.30 Session 1:

##### **Panel 1 - BAAS PGR Roundtable**

*Chair:* Emma Hall (Warwick)

Mark Slater (Edinburgh): Black is Beautiful, Black Power & Civil Rights: African Americans and Advertising in the 1960s and 1970s

Olga Kajtár-Pinjung (Szeged): Stages of Emnification: The United States of America vs. Guantánamo Bay

Vincent Veerbeek (Helsinki): “In Tune with the Nation? Marching Bands and Native American Influences on Music Education at United States Off-reservation Boarding Schools, 1879-1940”

Melissa Tyrrell (Northumbria): ‘If I should translate that book over my name, I’d never be considered “respectable” again.’

Thomas Newton (Reading): Exploring Vulnerability in Black Mirror: A Posthuman Disability Studies Perspective

##### **Panel 2 - Immigration and Ethno Religion**

*Chair:* Nora Lessersohn (Harvard)

Martina Permanyer (Complutense de Madrid): Navigating Two Worlds: Duality, Americanization and the Road to Becoming a Person in Anzia Yezierska’s *Bread Givers* (1925)

Irina Rabinovich (Holon Institute): Immigration, Nostalgia and Creative Urge as Double-Edged Swords in the (Auto)Biographical Writings of Rose Gollup-Cohen

##### **Panel 3 - Queer Histories and Methodological approaches to “challenging” topics**

*Chair:* Emily West (University of Reading)

Mori Reithmayr (Rothermere American Institute): How to stop the homophile revolution: NACHO and the scales of community

Xavier Reader (Oxford): Queering the plantation: exploring the presence of queer enslaved individuals in the antebellum American South and their navigations of hetero- and gender-normative plantation regimes.

Syed Aalim Akhtar (Cambridge): Saidiya Hartman's 'Critical Fabulation'

#### **Panel 4 - Depictions of Black Families across time and space**

*Chair:* Katherine Burns (Aberystwyth)

Antonia King (Royal Holloway): "Why don't he want me man" - The crisis of African American fatherhood, as told by *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*.

Ya'ara Notea (King's College): (Im)Possible Futures in Mildred D. Taylor's *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*

Yesmina Khedhir (Debrecen): "The first weapon I ever held was my mother's hand": The Power of Motherhood in Jesmyn Ward's *Let Us Descend*

Paula Granda (Valladolid): Intertextuality as a Strategy in the Works of Jesmyn Ward

#### **Panel 5 - Extra-Political Feminist Activism**

*Chair:* Mateusz Kucab (Jagiellonian)

Ariadna García Carreño (Almería): "Subtle" Lyrical Dissent: Sarah Piatt's Evaluation of Victorian Gender Conventions in Postbellum America

Cristiana Toscano (Publishing Editor): A fresh interpretation of Emily Dickinson's "So I pull my Stockings off"

Kathleen Feeley (Redlands) and Jennifer Frost (Auckland): "The Abraham Lincoln of the Acting Profession":

Olivia de Havilland versus the Hollywood Studio Contract System

Laura Gillespie (Hull): Women of the Six Nations and Politics in the Atlantic World

#### **Break 11.30-12.00**

#### **12.00-13.00 Session 2:**

##### **Panel 1- Roundtable: New Directions in publishing in American Studies**

*Chair:* Connie Thomas (QMUL)

David Doddington (ANCH co-editor); Katie McGettigan (JAS co-editor); Joe Street (CIAS co-editor).

## **Panel 2 - Feminist Writing Processes**

*Chair:* Olivia Foster (Nottingham Trent)

Gloria Lizana Iglesias (Autónoma de Madrid): Women Within Walls: Literary Spaces in Kate Chopin's Work

Vladislav Areshka (Portsmouth): Hearing Emily Dickinson through the original New England pronunciation and rhymes

Ben Atkinson (KU Leuven): Welcome To New York: The curation of memory, location and a 'conscious uncoupling' in the eras of Taylor Swift.

## **Panel 3 - Roundtable: Ab/using the Peephole: Representations of Surveillance in US Contemporary Culture**

*Focusing in particular on the 21st century and visual media, as well as literature and its film adaptations, this roundtable explores representations of surveillance and connected issues, disentangling the tensions between the wish to exert surveillance and that of escaping it, the perceived necessity of surveillance and the nostalgia for a time when surveillance technology was less advanced.*

*Chair:* Laura Álvarez Trigo (Universidad de Valladolid)

Anna Marta Marini (Universidad de Alcalá), Marta Miquel-Baldellou (Universidad de Lleida), Heather Roberts (Queen's), and María Abizanda Cardona (Universidad de Zaragoza).

## **Panel 4 - Media Landscapes: Television, Print, and Advertising in Mass Media**

*Chair:* TBC

Naomi Smith (Birkbeck): Considering Context: The Partisan Roots of the Vanderbilt Television News Archive

James Baxter (Trinity College, Dublin): New World Writing, 'imprint consciousness,' and the mass-market little magazine

Simone Blandford (Warwick): Reading/Riding the New York City Subway

Andrew Woods (Western): A Quarrel Behind the Curtain: The "Cultural Marxism Conspiracy Theory" Wikipedia Page

## **Panel 5 - Narratives of Vulnerability: Emotion, Disability, and Mental Health in Popular Culture**

*Chair:* Kai (Qing) Tan (RWTH Aachen)

Sara Álvarez Díaz (Oviedo): Female Emotions, Surveillance Capitalism, and a Film (Not Only) Targeted to Teenagers: The Case of *The Hunger Games*

Sergio García Jiménez (Oviedo): Steven Soderbergh's Techno-Thriller *Kimi* as a Cautionary Tale about the Pervasiveness of Surveillance Capitalism in Contemporary Societies

Lucía Bennett Ortega (Granada): Exploring Vulnerability in *Black Mirror*: A Posthuman Disability Studies Perspective

Wilfredo Gomez (Cambridge): 'Are You In that Mood Yet? Why Not?': Joe Budden and the Narrativizing of Disability in Hip-Hop

### **Lunch 13.00-14.00: Women in American Studies Network**

#### **14.00-15.00 Session 3: Targeted Research Panel**

Racial (De/Re)Generation: Technologies of Capture in Nineteenth-Century America

*Chair:* Dr. Xine Yao (UCL)

Camille Critchlow (UCL): Algorithmic Vision in the Photographic Saloon

Sammy Moriarty (KCL): Metabolic rift and degenerating whiteness in William J. Wilson's 'Afric-American Picture Gallery'

Sophie Chauhan (UCL): 'Regeneration' narratives: 'Eurasian' futurity in the nineteenth-century United States

#### **15.00-16.00: Independent Researcher Network**

#### **16:00-17:00: JAS Plenary: Class and African-American History**

*Chair:* TBC

Charisse Burden-Stelly (Wayne State University)

Blair Kelley (University of North Carolina)

Shannon King (Wooster)

## Thursday 11th April

### **10.30 -11.30: Session 4**

#### **Panel 1 - (In)Authentic Narratives and Metaphors of Self-Representation**

*Chair:* Liana Valerio (Warwick)

Elizabeth Godber (Hull): Strange Victory - Sara Teasdale's Posthumous Publishing

George Kowalik (King's College): Percival Everett's "manipulated fragments of no whole entity": American Cinema, Trickery, and the Past in *I Am Not Sidney Poitier*

Ledia Kazazi (Elbasan): An analysis of metaphors in the political discourse of *House of Cards*

#### **Panel 2 - Narratives of Indigeneity**

*Chair:* TBC

Anna Kirsch (Durham): Crimes Against Native Americans and the Emergence of Native American Crime Fiction as a Genre

Ajani Burrell (Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz): Trans-Pacific Talanoa: Contemporary Narratives of the Marianas Diaspora as a Conversation on Indigeneity

Brian Hosmer (Oklahoma State): The Wyoming Indian: Discourses on Labor and Politics in New Deal Reservation Publications

#### **Panel 3 - Flash-paper panel: Beyond Words: Exploring Women's Writing, Ecocriticism, and Materialism in the Literary Landscape**

*Guided discussion on research topics from American studies, and ecofeminism to women's writing, and feminist corporeality*

*Chair:* TBC

Olivia Foster (Nottingham Trent); Dorka Tamás (Unaffiliated); Katie Tobin (Durham)

#### **Panel 4 - "Queer Disorientations in Contemporary American Literature"**

Miguel Angel Tamargo del Pozo (Autonomous University of Madrid): "Failed Maps and Disorienting Narratives: Theoretical Approaches on Queer Mobility"

Elena Cortés Farrujia (Barcelona): "Queer Indigenous (Dis)Orientations: Embodied Cartographies of Unbound Timespace, Making Memory, Making Home"

Sara Soler Arjona (Barcelona): "Reorienting Experiences of Refuge(e): Memory, Survival, and Queer Refugeehood"

#### **Panel 5 - "Communities of Voices: Intersectional Perspectives and Power Across Media"**

*Chair:* Emily Brady (RAI)

Elizabeth Gonzalez (Independent Historian): *The Woman's Era: By Black Women, For Black Women, and the Power of Connection*

Audrey Sisel (Edinburgh): *In Their Own Words: White Soldiers' Perspectives on Race and Gender in Union Occupied Alexandria, Virginia*

Kai (Qing) Tan (RWTH Aachen): "Try to think of it from their point of view. It isn't easy for them."

Focalization and the Embodiment of Disability in *The Handmaid's Tale* (2019) by Margaret Atwood and Renée Nault

#### **Break 11.30-12.00**

#### **12.00-13.00: Session 5**

#### **Panel 1 - Trauma, Violence, and Memory in the Twentieth Century**

*Chair:* Adela Winkler (Polish Academy of Sciences)

Jeremiah Handlon (Rowan-Cabarrus Community College): *Flowered in a Garden of Broken Glass: Trauma in the Poetry of Frieda Hughes*

Nicholas Duddy (Oxford): "Inside His Head": Suicidology and Dramaturgy in *Death of a Salesman*'

Juan Carlos Ontiveros Gómez (Oviedo): "'As long as there was breath, there was hope': Traumatic Manifestations in Sadeqa Johnson's *Yellow Wife* (2021)"

Heidi K. Kim (North Carolina): *A Culture of Reparations: The Continuing Work of the 1990s Grassroots on the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiments and Japanese American Incarceration*

## **Panel 2 - Legacies of Conflict: Memories, Memorials, and Experiences of War**

*Chair:* Aisha Djelid (Reading)

Simona Tobia (Cambridge): “I was scared as hell, you know...” African American POWs and the shaping and reshaping of WWII memories

Rachel Williams (Hull): “Rubing and scrubbing at my shirt sleeves”: The Politics of Cleanliness in the Civil War Camp

Kristen Brill (Keele): The Virginia Women’s Monument and 21st Century Confederate Memory

## **Panel 3 - Speaking Truth to Power: Changes and Continuities in US Politics**

*Chair:* Thomas Cryer (UCL)

Patrick O’Dare (Queen Mary, University of London): The United States Supreme Court, Gender-based Violence and the State-action Doctrine

Louise Dobson (Sussex): Unmasking Janet Flanner: The Politics of Anti-Communism at the New Yorker

David Malcolm (Teesside): “More Law, Less Justice: Shays’ Rebellion and the role of the Classics in justifying repression”

## **Panel 4 - Corrupting Space: Environment, Community, and Liminal Places**

*Chair:* Caleb Smith (Mount Holyoke)

Issy Marcantonio (Exeter): More Than a Grain of Salt: The Spectral Violence of the Holocene

Bennett Collins (Aberdeen): Creating Americana Landscapes: Examining Dams and Reservoirs as Settler Colonial Ethnogeographies in the United States

Marika Ceschia (Edinburgh): Rewriting a Fugitive Continuum of Carceral Spaces in Gloria Naylor’s *The Women of Brewster Place* (1982)

Carla Abella Rodríguez (Salamanca): Fragmentary Poetics against the CCTV: Racialised Violence in Courtney Faye Taylor’s *Concentrate*

## **Panel 5 - Faith in Action: Religion, Spiritualism, and Culture**

*Chair:* TBC



Dawn-Marie Gibson (Royal Holloway): 'Imam W.D. Mohammed and the World Community of Al-Islam: African American Islam after Elijah Muhammad'

Motoe Sasaki (Hosei): Romantic Christianity and Ecumenical America: Charles Chapman Grafton's Attempt to Bridge the Episcopal Church, the Russian Orthodox Church, and the Old Catholic Church

Jasleen Singh (Michigan, Ann Arbor): Sikh Transnational Ethics and Activism

### **Lunch 13.00-14.00: Green BAAS Hangout**

#### **Conducting research sustainably in the midst of a climate emergency**

*As Americanists based in the UK with, for most of us, passport privilege, we have long benefitted from the ease and relative affordability of air travel. For those of us with a decade or more spent in academia, we have amassed archives, visited field sites and jetted off to conferences and seminars. In doing so, we have gathered knowledge and built a network, a list of publications and a career. But trailing behind us was the long-lasting carbon spewed in the process. How can we take responsibility for the complicity of the British Americanist community in contributing to climate change? How can young scholars concerned about their climate impact build a career differently? How can we conduct research in a sustainable way?*

*In this informal hangout, the GREEN BAAS co-leads (Dr Elsa Devienne and Dr Rebecca Tillett) will lead a discussion on the challenges and opportunities of doing American Studies research in the midst of a climate emergency and what "sustainable" may mean when the humanities are being attacked and defunded. Perspective from various career stages (from graduate students to established academics and including precariously-employed scholars) are very much welcome.*

### **14:00-15.00: Session 6**

#### **Panel 1 - Race, Political activism, and Social Justice**

*Chair:* Jason McDonald (Truman State)

Mark Parker (Kent): Conflicting Identities: The Red Power Movement and the American Flag

Dean Kotlowski (Salisbury): George S. McGovern and American Indian Self-Determination: The Uncertain Advocate

Say Burgin (Dickinson College): Re-Thinking Black Power and White Solidarity

**Panel 3 - Roundtable: Edinburgh University Press's Book Series on "Interventions in Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture"**

*Chair:* Andrew Taylor (Edinburgh)

Chair: Emily Sharp (Commissioning Editor for Literary Studies at EUP)

Chris Hanlon (Arizona State): Speaking of *Interventions*

Sarah Ruffing Robbins (Texas Christian): "Interventions" in Editorial Praxis

Stefan Schöberlein (Texas A&M): An Overlooked Walt Whitman

Ayendy Bonifacio (Toledo): Paratextuality in Anglophone and Hispanophone Poems

**Panel 4: Green BAAS: The West, Environmental Belonging, and Melancholia**

*Chair:* Elsa Devienne (Northumbria, and co-lead for Green BAAS)

Katie Hunt (Kent): "Crowded, polluted, and open to Commercial Exploitation:" The Impact of *Gidget* (1959) on Malibu's Nomadic Surf Space.

John Wills (Kent): Watching the End of the World with 3D Glasses On: *Doom Town 3D* (1953) and Early Anti-Nuclear Cinema

Alice Carlill (Goldsmiths): Hydrological memory, melancholia, and spectrality in Alexandra Kleeman's *Something New Under the Sun* (2021)

**Panel 5: Relations with the Land: Critical Indigenous Scholarship**

*Chair:* TBC

Ananya Mishra (Queen Mary, University of London): Non-humans imagine Absence: Adivasi and Alaskan Native Poetry on Agential Ecologies

Abigail Morton-Wilcox (East Anglia): On Silences and Open Space: A Critical Conversation for the Climate Crisis

Francesca Quinn (York): "Healing the Land IS Healing Ourselves" - Bodily and Environmental Well-being in Alaska Native Poetry

**15:10-16:00: BAAS Annual General Meeting**

**16.00-16.15: Break**

### **16.15-17.15: American Studies Beyond the Academy**

Dr Kathryn Gray (University of Plymouth and BAAS Knowledge Exchange Lead); Dr Philip Abraham (The Eccles Institute for the Americas at the British Library)

*Public Engagement. Knowledge Exchange. Impact. Whatever you call it, it has become an increasingly urgent priority for academics at all stages of their career to publish in places other than the scholarly presses, present beyond the university, and collaborate with organizations outside the academy.*

*This panel will offer up one academic's experience of collaborating on a major cultural heritage project, and introduce a new events series from BAAS and the British Library aimed at providing a public platform for some of the exciting work being done in American Studies. There will also be plenty of time for questions and discussion.*

*Attendees to BAAS are encouraged to send questions in advance (to [eccles-institute@bl.uk](mailto:eccles-institute@bl.uk)) as well as during the session.*

## Friday 12th April

### **10.30 -11.30 Session 7: Teaching American Studies Network**

American Studies, Assessment, and AI

*This workshop will provide participants with a basic introduction to GenAI and discuss the ways it intersects with thinking on assessment and academic integrity. Participants will then have an opportunity to put ChatGPT (or their preferred GenAI tool) to work on assessments from their own modules or from provided examples. Using the GenAI responses to these assessments, we'll discuss the ways that specific assessments need to be revised, whether they should be replaced entirely and what this means for the larger question of how to best teach American Studies.*

### **11.30-12.00: Break**

### **12.00-13.00: Session 8**

#### **Panel 1- Legacies of Nineteenth-Century Violence**

*Chair:* Erin Shearer (Reading)

Beth Wilson (Reading): 'I done been through that': Exploring the Emotional Legacy of Slavery's Violence in Formerly Enslaved People's 1930s Testimony

Liz Barnes (Reading): "US Police began as Slave Patrols": Emancipation, Policing, and Memory of the Past in Protest

Lewis Kimberley (Northumbria): The Truth, the Unwhole Truth and Nothing Like the Truth: Fabrications, Credibility and the 'Narrative' in Colfax (1873), Rock Springs (1885) and Springfield (1908)

David Ballantyne (Keele): Riots, Massacres, and Revolutions: Contesting Memories of Late Nineteenth Century Violence

#### **Panel 2 - Roundtable "Cultures of Generative AI"**

*The panelists will explore how AI, as a transformative technology, is reshaping the landscapes of literature, media, employment, and personal identity including sexual autonomy and motherhood. We will ask what responses might be required of legislators, and discuss which elements of which critical viewers and users of these technologies might need to be aware.*

James Mackay (European University Cyprus); JuEunhae Knox (Sheffield); Aurelie Petit (Concordia); John Murray (Central Florida)

### **Panel 3 - “Una Herida Abierta/An Open Wound”: Violence and Trauma in Chicana Literature**

*Chair:* TBC

Viola Nassi (Leicester): ‘Many times she wished to speak, to act, to protest, to challenge’: Silencing as Violence in Gloria Anzaldúa’s *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*.

Carolina Palacios Guerra (Edinburgh): Familial Archives and the Violence of Truth in Sandra Cisneros’s *Caramelo*

Elisa Fernández Rodríguez (Autonomous University of Madrid): ‘In For the Same’: Violence and Trauma in the Chicana Daughters of Carla Trujillo’s *What Night Brings*

### **Panel 4 - Roundtable: (Re)Mediating Memory: Cultural Narratives in American Popular Music**

*This roundtable aims to reflect on conceptual understandings of cultural memory and the ways in which historical narratives are constructed, employing diverse case studies from the canon of American popular music to explore both the legacies of and shifting responses to these works.*

*Chair:* TBC

Ellie Armon Azoulay (Newcastle); James Barker (Newcastle); Robyn Shooter (King’s College, London)

### **Panel 5 - Journalism and American Political Culture**

*Chair:* Emily Hull (Independent Scholar)

David Milnem (East Anglia): Sigrid Schultz, the Chicago Tribune, and the Third Reich

Simon Hall (Leeds): Herbert Lionel Matthews, the Cuban Revolution, and the Pursuit of ‘Truth’

Amanda Stafford (Leeds): “Somebody is agitating the matter”: Provocation as Direct Action in *The Great Speckled Bird*

### **13.00-14.00: PGR/ECA Network**

### **14.00-15.00: Session 9**

#### **Panel 1 - Constructing Religious Communities**

*Chair:* TBC

Marta Hernández González (Alicante): Challenging Anthropocentrism: A Comparative Analysis of Western and Native American Creation Stories

Dr. Justyna Fruzińska (Lodz): Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Young Goodman Brown* and the Meaning of Religious Experience

John Ronan (Pennsylvania): Nathaniel Hawthorne after Sacvan Bercovitch

## **Panel 2 - Roundtable: T-Bone Slim and the Transnational Poetics of the Migrant Left**

*Discusses international research project, led by Kirsti Salmi-Niklander, entitled T-Bone Slim and the Transnational Poetics of the Migrant Left. Roundtable features several of the project's participants, who will outline their findings and debate both the current and future state of T-Bone Slim Studies.*

*Chair:* Owen Clayton (Lincoln)

Kirsti Salmi-Niklander (Helsinki); Marija Dalbello (Rutgers); Saku Pinta (Manitoba); John Westmoreland (American songwriter and musician); Lotta Leiwo (Helsinki).

## **Panel 3 - From Laughter to Liberation: Resisting Colonialism**

*Chair:* TBC

Ichrak Dik (Blida2): "Comedy as Survivance in the Native American Series *Reservation Dogs*."

George Tóth (Stirling): The Akwesasne Notes: Organ or Catalyst of Cold War Native American Transnational Protest?

Hasnul Insani Djohar (Southern Utah): Palestinian-American Women and Nature in Susan Abulhawa's Novels

## **Panel 4 - Workshop: 'A Liberal Mugged By Reality?': A Roundtable on Neoconservatism in Late-twentieth Century US Politics**

*We will explore the central debates surrounding neoconservatism: Did neoconservatism constitute a political movement? When, and why, did neoconservatism emerge? Who was a neoconservative? How and why was neoconservatism absorbed into the wider conservative movement? And what is the relationship between neoconservatism and neoliberalism?*

*Chair:* TBC

Emily Hull (UCL); Graham Ashurst (Nottingham); Sophie Joscelyne (UCL)

**Panel 5 - Workshop: “Playing” with American History’: Interactive Field Trip through US History  
Video Gaming**

*Following an initial 10-minute introduction, participants will be invited onto a virtual Archaeogaming-informed Field Trip inside a game representing US History, such as L.A. Noire or Kerbal Space Program. The game will be streamed/screenshared by co-hosts, building on our previous academic Let’s Play experiences, not requiring extra hardware/software by attendees.*

Tim Peacock (Glasgow); Lauren Bergin (News Editor for PCGamesN, British online video game magazine).

**15.00-16.00: Session 10**

**Panel 1 - Combined Academic Publishers Event**

**Panel 2 - Approaching Historical Fiction:**

Emily Brady (RAI) in conversation with Elizabeth Cobbs (Texas A&M)

**16.00-17.00: BAAS / Eccles Centre Plenary Panel**

**The Fallout from Barbenheimer**

*Chair:* Lydia Plath (University of Warwick / BAAS Chair)

Rebecca Harrison (Open University)

Riziki Millanzi (University of Sussex)

John Wills (University of Kent)

**17:00: Conference Disperses**