

Day 1 – Weds 23 April

11.00-12.00: Registration (*Forum Lecture Theatre*)

12.00-13.00: Lunch

13.00-14.00: Session 1

- 1A: A Workshop on Deconstructing Positionality in Research (*LC152*)
 - Viola Nassi, Sebastian Leyton Blanco, Ben R. Atkinson
- 1B: Early Career Academic Roundtable (*LC154*)
 - Siân Round
- 1C: The Plantationocene (*D102*)
 - Marika Ceschia, 'Mothering the Land in Maryse Condé's Novel *I, Tituba Black Witch of Salem*'
 - Cydney Philip, 'Carcinogenic Ecologies: Storytelling, Public Health, and Louisiana's Cancer Alley'
- 1D: Targeted Research Panel. COVID-19 and the Slow Death of Interdisciplinarity in the Practice and Teaching of American Studies – Roundtable (*C152*)
 - Heena Hussain, Lauren Pearl Holmes, Charlotte Stevenson
- 1E: *Journal of American Studies* Office Hours (*B160*). Tbc.

14.00-15.30: *Journal of American Studies* Keynote Panel (*Forum Lecture Theatre*)

- 70 Years of American Studies in Britain
 - Chairs: Will Norman, Katie McGettigan
 - Panellists: Nick Selby, Bridget Bennett, Joe Street, Nicole King

15.30-16.00: Coffee Break

16.00-17.00: Session 2

- 2A: Pedagogy and Promotion: A Joint Teaching American Studies Network and Women in American Studies Network (TASN/WASN) Workshop (*C152*)
 - Hilary Emmett, Kate Dossett, Becky Fraser
- 2C: Special Relationship Reels: British and American Documents at the British Online Archives – an Interactive Workshop (*LC152*)
 - Catherine V. Bateson
- 2D: The Rooting for Evil Book Club: Patricia Highsmith's *The Talented Mr Ripley*, US Culture, and the 'Charming' Psychopath – Reading Group (*B160*)[^]
 - Hannah Spruce
- 2E: Neural Data and AI Governance: An American Studies Perspective – Workshop (*LC154*)

- Devon Ramsammy
- 2F: *Journal of American Studies* Office Hours. Tbc.

17.30-18.30: TBC

18.30: Dinner

Day 2 – Thurs 24 April

08.30-09.00: Coffee (*Prince Edward Hall*) – Registration outside

09.00-10.00: Session 3

- 3A: Green BAAS Moving Conversations – ‘Gentle Pootle’ (Sculpture Trail)
 - Elsa Devienne
- 3B: Indigenous Screen Studies: Visual Essays (*B154*)
 - James Lapping, ‘*Oklahoma!* and *Killers of the Flower Moon*’
 - Naomi Smith, ‘How are Indigenous American Identities Constructed and Reconstructed in National Television News?’
- 3c: Appalachia and Politics (*C152*)
 - Anna Creadick, ‘The Ballad of J.D. Vance’
 - Richard W. Hayes, ‘Appalachia on Their Minds: Yale Students in Kentucky and West Virginia, 1966-69’
- 3D: Religiosity, Spirituality, and Social Transformation (*LC152*)
 - Motoe Sasaki, ‘Protestant Sisterhood, Consecrated Celibacy, and Female Subjectivity for Social Activism in Late Nineteenth-Century America’
 - Louise Fenton, ‘Tracing the Spirits: The Origins of Voodoo Lwa in New Orleans’
- 3E: Publishing Monographs Workshop (*D102*)
 - Lola Boorman, Martin Halliwell, Mark Whalan
- 3F: *Journal of American Studies* Office Hours (*B160*). Tbc.

10.10-11.10: Session 4

- 4A: Black Activism in the New Deal Era (*C152*)
 - David Ballantyne, ‘“An Illustrious Heritage”: Marcus B. Christian’s New Deal-Era Reclamation of Louisiana History’
 - Maiko Mine, ‘“Let America Be America Again”: Reimagining Black Federal Writers’ Visions of Democracy’
 - Emma Rhodes, ‘“The First of its Kind in the South”: African American Women and WPA Health Centres’
- 4B: Is Space *Still* the Place? Imagining Speculative Futures Through Critical and Creative Responses – Interactive Session (*LC152*)[▲]
 - Riziki Millanzi
- 4C: Snapshots of 1955: Anxious Nation, Insecure World – Roundtable (*D102*)
 - Oli Charbonneau, Sarah Dunstan, Daniel Scroop
- 4D: Community, Incarceration, and Legacies of Malcolm X (*D120*)

- Dawn-Marie Gibson, ‘Imam W.D. Mohammed: Building a Black American Muslim Community Before and After Malcolm X’*
- Owen Clayton, ‘“Stone walls do not a prison make”: Identity in US Prison Writing’
- 4E: New Approaches to the Frontier Myth (*B160*)
 - Nicole Musson, ‘“Desolation and Desertion”: The Early American West in Print, 1745-1775’
 - Franziska Friedl, ‘The (Un)Dead Frontier? Regenerating Myth in the Zombie Apocalypse’
- 4F: Mediating American Studies (*B154*)
 - Lola Boorman, ‘The Medium is the Message: Richard Wright and U.S. Postal Service’
 - Mike Collins, ‘Nice Work If You Can Get It: John Dos Passos’s New Deal in *The Grand Design*’
 - Jonathan Moreland, ‘The Long Sentence “doesn’t bear thinking about”: Facts, Facism, and *Ducks, Newburyport*’
 - Matthew James Holman, ‘Immediacy, Representation, and Figurative Painting in America (2023-24)’

11.10-11.30: Coffee Break (*Prince Edward Hall*)

11.30-13.00: Session 5

- 5A: Engaging Ethics in Engaged Research – Workshop (*B154*)
 - Kate Dossett, Nick Grant, et al
- 5B: Where is the Indigenous Studies in American Studies? Indigenous Research in the UK – Roundtable (32)* (*D102*)
 - Sophia Arnold, ‘Climate Justice and the “Europatrocene”’
 - Soph Harris-Nijmeijer, ‘“How Euphoric it is to Exceed your Outer Limits”: Joy, Imagination, and Erotic Survivance in Contemporary Indigiqueer Writing’
 - James Lapping, ‘Deer Lady’s Impactful Role in *Resevation Dogs*’
 - Madalyn Mann, ‘The Potawatomi Marker Project: A Collaborative Approach to Commemorating the Trail of Death’
 - Francesca Quinn, ‘The Temporalities of Climate Violence and Resilience in Alaska Native Poetry’
 - Shelley Angelie Saggat, ‘Introducing the AHRC-Funded “Sharing Lands: Reconciliation, Recognition, & Reciprocity” Project’
- 5C: Green BAAS Moving Conversations 2 – ‘Power Walk’ (Campus Trail)
 - Elsa Devienne
- 5D: The Harlem Renaissance (*LC152*)
 - Harry Tidby-Spence, ‘Ralph Ellison’s Complex Depiction of African American Soldiers in “In a Strange Country”’
 - Mark Whalan, ‘Charismatic Leadership and Aesthetic Education in the Harlem Renaissance *Bildungsroman*’

- Stephanie Palmer, 'Reconfiguring Middle-American Community in Between the Wars: Langston Hughes and Black Networks'
- 5E: American Exceptionalism in Culture (*D120*)
 - Rachel Franklin, 'Myths of Masculinity and American Exceptionalism in American Baseball Fictions'
 - Emma Hall, 'State Architects of Exceptionalism: How Texas and California Embed American Exceptionalism in US History Curricula'
- 5F: Environmental Texts and Ecologies (*C152*)
 - Gemma Curto, 'Kennedy and Environmental Policies: The Importance of 1963 in *Only Revolutions*'
 - Frankie Hines, 'Shut the Fuck Up: Security Culture and The Contemporary American Ecological Novel'
 - Katie McGettigan, 'Constantine Rafinesque, Imagined Birch Bark, and the Natural Histories of American Books'
- 5G: 1955 Films+ (*B160*)
 - Adam Maric-Cleaver, 'The World is a Gorgon's Head: The Medusan Real of the Anthropocene in *Kiss Me Deadly*'
 - Pierangelo Castagneto, 'Bill Haley, *Blackboard Jungle*, and the Subcultural Theory of Delinquency in the Age of Anxiety'
 - Guy Barefoot, 'A Year at the Drive-In: What Can We Learn from Identifying What Was on the American Outdoor Screen in 1955?'

13.00-14.00: Lunch (*Prince Edward Hall*)

- Women in American Studies (WASN) Networking (*B154*)
- Manchester University Press Office Hours (*B160*)

14.00-15.00: Session 6

- 6A: The Life, Literature, and Legacy of Luis J. Rodríguez: In the Long Run* (*LC152*)
 - Laura Skinner, 'Reading America and Reading Rodríguez: Exploring American Literature at an English Prison Book Group'
 - Josephine Metcalf, 'Re-Encountering Rodríguez: It Calls You Back and Draws You In—the Personal Papers of Luis J. Rodríguez'
 - Ben Olguín, 'Towards a Xicanx Communist Synthesis of the Organic Intellectual: Luis J. Rodríguez's Revolutionary Lumpen/Proletarian Gnosis and Praxis'
- 6B: Extending the Archives of Abolition and Antislavery: Texts, Objects, and Voices in the Nineteenth-Century Atlantic World' (*B154*)
 - Bridget Bennett, 'Sewing the Seeds of Antislavery'
 - Amy M. Cools, 'The American Black Press and the Founding of the *Weekly Afro-African*'
 - Clare Elliott, 'Poems as a "relic to the past": Nineteenth-Century Approaches to Phillis Wheatley Peters'
 - Fionnghuala Sweeney, 'Surfeit or Loss? The many autobiographies and slender book of poems by James Watkins, formerly a slave in Maryland'

- 6C: Decolonizing the English Curriculum: American-Muslimah Literature (*CI52*)
 - Hasnul Insani Djohar, ““AMAL WAS SHOT...Amal died without knowing death”: Women’s Bodies, Ironies, and Violence in Susan Abulhawa’s Fiction’
 - Sirene Harb, ‘Experimentation and Decolonial Practices in Muslim-American Women’s Poetry’
 - Sajudeen Nijamodeen Chapparban, ‘Hijabi Rappers, Cultural Identity, and Transnational Solidarity: A Study of the Asian and Asian American Raps’
- 6D: Manchester University Press Office Hours (*B160*)
- 6E: *Journal of American Studies* Office Hours (*PEH*). Tbc.

15.00-15.30: Break

15.30-17.00: Annual General Meeting & BAAS Chair’s Address (*Forum Lecture Theatre*)

- Lydia Plath

17.00: Cake.

17.30-18.30: PGR drinks reception TBC

Day 3 – Fri 25 April

08.30-09.00: Coffee (*Prince Edward Hall*) – Registration outside

09.00-10.00: Session 7

- 7A: The Use of Likert Statistical Models to View historical Concepts –Workshop (*D102*)
 - Matthew Cunneen
- 7B: Queerness and Institutions (*B160*)
 - Andrew Monteith, “‘Our Lives Were Very Happy Because We Three Belonged to Each Other’: Queerness, Polyamory and Marriage in a 1920s Christian Boarding School’
 - Leonardo Cascão, “‘Truth was quite enough’: Early Life Writings of the AIDS Epidemic’*
- 7C: Desegregation and 1955 (*LC152*)
 - Chelsea D. McNutt, ‘One Year After the Brown Decision, The Significance of 1955: Southern Black Women’s Activism and the Uphill Battle of School Segregation’
 - Gwyneth Mellinger, ‘Flashpoint and Counterpoint 1955: The Stakes on the Frontline of the Freedom Struggle’*
- 7D: Teaching American Studies (*B154*)
 - Jo Freer, ‘Teaching American Counterculture Through the Independent Voices Underground Press’
 - Aretha Phiri, ‘American Literary Studies Today: A Comparative Reflection from South of the Border’

10.15-11.30 Eccles Institute Keynote Panel (*Forum Lecture Theatre*)

- America Now: American Studies in an Age of Crisis.
 - Chair: Lydia Plath
 - BAAS Exec Members: Rachele Dini, Sarah Thelen, Rebecca Stone, Ahmed Honeini
 - [More information about America Now!](#)

11.30-12.00: Coffee (tbc)

- Book raffle! Emma Hall and Emily Brady

12.00-13.30: Session 8

- 8A: Re-Presenting Matthew Henson – A Creative Session (*B160*)
 - Laura Wilson
- 8C: Health, Wellbeing, and Medical Humanities (*C152*)
 - Giorgia Garilli, ‘Self-Care and the Trump-Era Novel’s “Disappointing Politics”’
 - Oliver Haslam, ‘Privilege and Over-Prescription in Ottessa Moshfegh’s *My Year of Rest and Relaxation*’

- Jenny Hutton, ‘Medical Morality: RLF and the 1953 National Cooperative Study’
- 8D: Coming of Age Across American Generations (*D102*)
 - Chair: Danielle Cameron
 - Rachael McLennan, ‘Age as Mask in Kiley Reid’s *Such a Fun Age* and *Come and Get It*’
 - Natalie Wall, ‘*The Goldfinch* and Goodreads: Pain, Plausibility, and the Coming-of-Age Plot’
- 8E: 1855 (De)Canonised (*B154*)
 - Jamie Fenton, ‘Longfellow in the Lungs’
 - Emma Thiébaud, ‘Feline Hauntings’
 - Anna Shmatenko, “‘Our Rudimental Organs’”: Edgar Allan Poe and the Disability Poetics of Organised Matter’
 - Alice de Galzain, ‘Woman’s Health and Feminist Resistance in *The Una*, 1853-55’
 - Note: ‘The panel organisers would like to encourage graduate scholars and new BAAS participants in particular to come and share their research on the nineteenth century’

13.30-14.30: Lunch (*PEH*)

- Teaching American Studies (TASN) Networking (*B154*)

14.30-15.30: Session 9

- 9A: Photographing the Nation (*B160*)
 - Mike Chopra-Gant, ‘All the Fun of the Carousel: Family Photography as Social Ritual in Postwar America’
 - Jarkko Tanninen, ‘Memory is Fertile Land: William Christenberry’s Photography and Poetics of the Deep South’
- 9B: Disneyland at 70: Baudrillard and Representations of Amusement Parks – Reading Group (*B154*)
 - Georgia Walton

The following will be individual papers from 14.30-15.00:

- 9C: Claire Watt, “‘Father Death, I’m coming home’”: Palimpsestic Place in Allen Ginsberg’s *Father Death Blues* and *In My Kitchen in New York*’ (*C152*)
- 9D: Makita Glenn, ‘The Death Penalty and Emmett Till’s Murder’ (*D102*)
- 9E: Aleksandra Kuroś, ‘The Conservative Shift in the Supreme Court: Implications of the 2024 Presidential Election’ (*D120*)
- 9F: Jonathan Ward, *Defying Blavity: Examining the Politics of Casting Black Actors on Stage and Screen* (*LC152*)
- 9G: Patrick J. Doyle, ‘Many Acts of Insubordination and Restlessness Might be Mentioned’’: Enslaved Resistance and Racial Order in South Carolina During the Twilight of the Confederacy (*D110>LC204/6*)

15.30: Close of Conference