



U.S. STUDIES ONLINE

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Open for All Postgraduates and Early Career Researchers in American Studies

USSO@BAAS.AC.UK

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BAAS
BRITISH ASSOCIATION
FOR AMERICAN STUDIES





Promoting the work of postgraduate and early career researchers
in the field of American Studies since 2001

Who we are

U.S. Studies Online is the home of original research, book and event reviews, and other engaging content for all scholars working within American Studies. Affiliated with the [British Association for American Studies \(BAAS\)](#), the largest community and scholarly network of American Studies researchers in the UK, USSO acts as a launchpad for both new ideas and scholars alike.

For those beginning their journey into academic publishing, USSO offers a responsive, respectful, and prompt peer-review process. For those already established within the academy, USSO continues to uphold excellent standards of research publication and maintains relationships and networks across nations and disciplines.

At *U.S. Studies Online*, we're interested in working with PGRs, ECRs, and scholars across the spectrum of American Studies, promoting their original research as well as sharing events, reviews, and other related material in the field. Our accessible style and short-format content attracts a wide readership, which comprises both specialists and non-specialists and should factor into all pitches and articles submitted.

The editorial team at USSO are friendly, respectful, and always curious to hear new ideas and forge new relationships within the American Studies community. We source and produce exciting, varied content that includes: research posts, careers and professional development advice, collaborative special featured blog series, book reviews and event reviews, an online, real-time monthly [#USSOBOOKHOUR](#) talk, interviews, and “scholars across borders” travel blogs and an interactive calendar that provides comprehensive up-to-date information on UK-based and international American and Canadian Studies events, exhibitions, funding deadlines, calls for papers, job vacancies and more!

To find out more about how you can contribute to *U.S. Studies Online* email our editorial team at usso@baas.ac.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Amanda Niedfeldt and Will Carroll (Co-Editors)

Mairi Power, Siân Round, Jun Qiang, and Emily Brady (Assistant Editors)

What we look for

Book Reviews

We warmly invite all academics and scholars, from college students to postgraduates through to ECRs, to review books for us. Thinking critically about new material in a given field and about the contributions offered by a newly published work are vital elements of the research process. We want to promote reviews that are passionate, illuminating, and engage respectfully and thoughtfully with scholarship. If you are interested in reviewing a book for *USSO*, email Siân Round at usso@baas.ac.uk

Event Reviews

We welcome any interest in coverage of events that pertain to American Studies and invite both postgraduates and early career academics to collaborate with us, both as writers and organisers. We provide a platform for writing reviews of conferences, workshops and American Studies events for publication. We also feature upcoming events on our events calendar, so please advise us if you are working on any new projects. This semester we are launching our new audio project—‘Eyes on Events’—wherein we discuss some of the most exciting events in the American Studies calendar. If you are organising any events through your university or otherwise, we would love to discuss collaboration opportunities. If you are interested in any of the aforementioned, please email Emily Brady at usso@baas.ac.uk

Book Hour Guest/Participation

#USSOBOOKHOUR is a monthly Zoom talk among scholars, postgraduates, early-career researchers, and the public. We invite leading scholars in American Studies (US Literature, History, Politics, Foreign Policy, History of Art, Philosophy, Global Relations, etc.) to introduce their latest publications, generate heated debates, share innovative ideas, and spark meaningful conversations. Each talk is about 30-40 minutes, followed by a 20-minute Q&A session. #USSOBOOKHOUR is an opportunity for scholars to share their original voices and connect with other researchers and readers. Get in touch with Jun Qiang, the Global Relations Editor of *USSO* and #USSOBookhour Organiser, at usso@baas.ac.uk if you would like to host, co-host, take part in, or write reviews for [#USSOBOOKHOUR](https://www.instagram.com/ussobookhour).

Research Articles

Give readers an insight into your research by discussing the primary and secondary sources that fascinate you. We particularly welcome new discoveries, methodological questions, archival reflections, online commentaries (“Interchange”), co-authored roundtable debates, state of the field posts, and research on niche topics and lesser-known figures. We are also looking for scholarly reflections on current events, upcoming anniversaries, commemorations and annual special dates. Get in touch with Amanda Niedfeldt and Will Carroll at usso@baas.ac.uk to pitch your ideas.

Edit a Special Series

Want a bigger challenge and editorial experience? The editors are also interested in proposals for a featured blog series. If successful, the contributor will get the chance to plan a special series with the *USSO* editorial team as guest editor. A proposal can be collaborative, co-authored or single-authored and it can include several approaches, such as interviews, visual and audio multi-media. A blog series should focus on a particular topic or debate and could also showcase a department, research centre, or a public engagement venture. Email Amanda Niedfeldt and Will Carroll at usso@baas.ac.uk to express your interest.

Submission Guidelines

These guidelines will help you to have your article published on *U.S. Studies Online* as quickly as possible. If you have any questions about your contribution, please email us at usso@baas.ac.uk.

Titles

- We use narrative titles, i.e a single sentence that sums up the main argument of the article. The more descriptive and catchy the title, the more likely the article is to be read. Titles can be questions but avoid general topics.
- Try and keep titles to twenty words or less, if possible

Length and format

- In order to increase readability and accessibility, we aim for our articles to be between 700 and 1,200 words.
- We are also happy to post longer essays, if appropriate for the topic. If you are interested, please discuss this with the editors.
- Please send us your draft article in Word format, with your name at the top.
- Regular guest bloggers will be given contributor rights, allowing you to input your article straight in a post, which will then be sent to the editors for approval. This will help speed up the publication process.

Audience, writing style and language

- Our target audience includes postgraduates, early career researchers and academics, as well as people outside of academia who have an interest in any and all aspects of American Studies. The best posts tend to be entertaining, informative, accessible and innovative. Although posts are not subject to peer-review, we are keen to provide PGRs and ECRs a platform to showcase aspects of their work that would not necessarily fit elsewhere.
- Because we hope to reach a wide non-academic audience, we prefer articles written in a more natural style, rather than those that are impenetrably esoteric or jargon- and acronym-heavy.
- Use short paragraphs made up of four or five sentences
- As with journalistic pieces ‘lead with the best.’ Don’t save your main argument or analysis for the end of the post.
- Write your article as a standalone piece, even if it summarises material in a longer paper or journal article. Try to present all of your argument and evidence within the text and avoid relying too heavily on information contained in external sources. Avoid phrases such as “in my recent paper, I have shown that ...” and simply say “Political pollsters get it wrong for these reasons...” Remember that many journal articles are behind a paywall and not all readers will have access to them.

Submission Guidelines

Referencing

- We encourage authors to include links to relevant references and related material. Ideally these will be to open access sources rather than those behind paywalls.
- Please insert a hyperlink at the relevant point of your argument that you'd like to reference (using **ctrl-K** in Word) or simply place the URL in parentheses where you would like it to be placed and we will link it ourselves.
- If appropriate, we are happy for authors to include links to their other research or publications, in order to guide the reader to longer or more in-depth research. This can also be done using footnotes.

Images and Videos

- We encourage the use of images and videos assuming they are within the public domain. If you wish to include images in your post, save them as JPEGs and incorporate them into the draft of your post in Word. Where possible place them where it makes most sense for the overall piece and include a short caption detailing the origins (if known) and content of the image.
- Alongside the written draft of your article, please submit an appropriate image that can be used as a featured photo for the post. This should give the reader a sense of the article's content and can be included in the Word document.

Biography

- As the online network for BAAS PGRs and ECRs, *USSO* wants to get to know its contributors! With that in mind, please include a photo of yourself, a 2-3 line biography in third person giving your present institution, current research project, and (if appropriate) a link to your online profile (perhaps your academia.edu or Twitter page) at the end of your draft.

Our Editing Process

- In most cases submitted articles will be reviewed as soon as possible by the Editorial Team, who will edit the piece to enhance readability to the blog's wider audience. Once these edits are complete, we will send you the final version of the article, and give you an opportunity to make final edits.
- We also ask you to confirm that the article or significant portions of it have not been published elsewhere. If you wish to submit a post that has been published elsewhere (online or in print) then please contact the editors at usso@baas.ac.uk