

**Polish Association for American Studies
2009 Conference**

**(Mis)reading America.
American dreams, fictions and illusions**



Puławy, October 21-23, 2009

Conference program

Wednesday, October 21

- 12:00 Registration opens – Centrum Szkoleniowo-Kongresowe, Puławy, Aleja Krolewska 17
- 15:00 – 15:30 Conference opening – the Czartoryski Palace
- 15:30 – 16:45 Plenary lecture – Prof. Cezar Ornatowski (SDSU) "Imagining Collective Identities: America, Europe, and Their Others" – the Czartoryski Palace
- 16:45 – 17:30 Walk back to the conference center – a break
- 17:30 – 19:00 Paper sessions
- Session 1: Reading Contemporary Literature I – Chair: Pawel Frelik**
1. Łukasz Dębiec – American history extricated from the phantasmagoric labyrinth of oblivion – Flannery O'Connor and Walter Benjamin.
 2. Emilia Borowska – Debugging and deprogramming America in William T. Vollmann's *You Bright and Risen Angels*
 3. Mateusz Liwiński – Ghost Positioning (System): Reading Zeros in American Landscape
- Session 2: Reading American Policies and Politics I – Chair: Krzysztof Flis**
1. Anna Bendrat – Presidents misreading the Constitution
 2. Magdalena Jung – Silencing dangerous minds: free speech on American campus
 3. Marta Rzepecka – The Rhetoric of Peace during the Cold War
- 19:30 – 21:30 Banquet

Thursday, October 22

- 9:00 – 10:15 Plenary lecture – Prof. Andrea Herrera (University of Colorado) - "Cartographies of Knowledge: The Remapping of American Literature and Culture"

10:30 – 12:00

Paper sessions

Session 1: Visual Readings I – Chair: John Leo

1. Elżbieta Rokosz-Piejko – Misread Americana - Representation of Americans in a British crime drama “Inspector Morse”
2. Zofia Kolbuszewska – Hybridity and (Mis)reading at/of the American Frontier: Travelling with Nobody in Jim Jarmusch’s film *Dead Man*
3. Anna Krawczyk-Łaskarzewska – Rimbaud Meets Rambo: Finding American Beauty in Richard Kwietniowski’s *Love and Death on Long Island*.

Session 2: Reading the Pastoral and More – Chair: Kacper Bartczak

1. Zuzanna Ładyga – Simulating the Pastoral in David Foster Wallace’s “The View from Mrs. Thompson’s” (2001)
2. Julia Fiedorczuk – Rereading nature: postpastoral sensibility in recent American poetry.
3. Justyna Włodarczyk – From the Inside Looking In: The Mis/Education of Michelle Tea

Session 3: Reading the Hispanic America – Chair: Andrea Herrera

1. Grażyna Zygałto – Heaven or Hell – Amexican Borderlands in the Eyes of the Crossers
2. Ewa Antoszek – Marianismo and Malinchismo: the Role of Sexuality in the Production of Disfigured Images of Chicanas in *Face of an Angel* by Denise Chávez.
3. Grzegorz Welizarowicz – Richard Montoya’s (Re)Visions of America

12:00 – 12:30

Coffee break

12:30 – 14:00

Paper sessions

Session 1: Reading Asian Americans – Chair: Dominika Ferens

1. Izabella Kimak – Americans Misreading (Other) Americans: Racial Subjects in the post-9/11 US in two South Asian American Novels
2. Anna Czyż – Amy Tan’s *Joy Luck Club* - Oriental misreading of American Dream
3. Duane Phan – Achieving the American Dream: Realities and Myths of Asian America

Session 2: Reading African-Americans – Chair: Ewa Łuczak

1. Anna Warso – Speaking through the masks: blackface minstrelsy in John Berryman’s *Dream Songs*

2. Bartosz Wójcik – “The United Snakes of America” – Mutabaruka's dub poetic anti-imperialism.
3. Jerzy Kamionowski – “Who Do The Saying” – Amiri Baraka: A Great (Mis)Reader Of America?

Session 3: Reading Contemporary Literature II – Chair: Elżbieta Rokosz-Piejko

1. Aleksandra BubiŃo – Functions of heterotopias in the novels of Chuck Palahniuk
2. Ewa Klęczaj- Loving Blackness: bell hooks And The Politics Of Resistance

14:00 – 15:15

Lunch

15:15 – 16:45

Paper sessions

Session 1: Reading African-American History – Chair: Zbigniew Mazur

1. Zbigniew Mazur – Race And The Origins Of American Leisure: Black Slaves And Colonial Recreations In Eighteenth-Century Virginia
2. Beata Kenig – Life of (Un)intended Leisure? The Daily Life and the Attitudes to Work of the Slaveholding Class in Antebellum Virginia in the Two Decades Before the Civil War
3. Anna Pochmara – Images of Europe and America in the Writings of Alain Locke

Session 2: Reading American Policies and Politics II – Chair: Jerzy Kutnik

1. James Ryan – The American Communist Party's Critique of the United States' Constitution.
2. David Jones & Joanna Waluk – Polish and American Diplomatic Relations Since 1939: The Tragic Became Magic
3. Krzysztof Flis – Misreading American diplomacy: John Foster Dulles and the French Dien Bien Phu (1954)

Session 3: Cultural Readings I – Chair: Anna Krawczyk-Laskarzewska

1. Andrzej Antoszek – (Mis)Reading America? The Case of Contemporary American and (East)Central European Hip Hop Culture
2. Edyta Frelik – Verbi-visual Contexts in 20th-century American Painting
3. Tomasz Basiuk – Viral communications and the death drive. A comparison of Jonathan Demme's *Philadelphia* and Pedro Almodóvar's *Law of Desire*

16:45 – 17:15

Coffee break

17:15 – 18:45

Paper sessions

Session 1: Reading Contemporary Literature III – Chair: Zofia Kolbuszewska

1. Marta Mazurek – (Mis)reading the Negress: *Dessa Rose* and womanist praxis.
2. Małgorzata Poks – Reading Toni Morrison's *Paradise* as an Exercise in the Poetics of the Event.
3. Kamil Rusiłowicz – Walking Among the Ruins: Reading Post-apocalyptic America in Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*.

Session 2: Reading the West – Chair: Marek Paryż

1. Elżbieta Wilczyńska – The Battle over Genocide – Was it also the experience of Native Americans?
2. Józef Jaskulski – Crazy Horse dreams back. Rewriting the western delusions in Sherman Alexie's *Tonto and the Lone Ranger Fistfight in Heaven* and *The Toughest Indian in the World*.
3. Małgorzata Martynuska – The Western Film *Genre* as an Expression of American Values

19:00 – 20:30

Dinner

20:30 – 21:30

PAAS business meeting + Best M.A. in American Studies Award ceremony

Friday, October 23

9:00 – 10:15

Plenary lecture – Prof. Agnieszka Salska (University of Łódź) - "Something fantastic and *abracadabrant* belonging to no known language:" Henry James's Perplexed Readings of the American Scene

10:30 – 12:00

Paper sessions

Session 1: Philosophical Readings – Chair: Tomasz Basiuk

1. Kacper Bartczak – Pragmatic Utopias and Their Consequences for Multicultural Environments: Richard Shusterman's Correction of Richard Rorty's Projects of Self-Creation
2. Marek Paryż – Whatever Happened to the American Scholar? The Absence of America in Emerson's Lecture

Session 2: Reading Ethnicity I – Chair: Jadwiga Maszewska

1. Dominika Ferens – Reading Whiteness in New Jersey: The Turn from Ethnography to Fiction

2. Pawel Stachura – A Map of American Misreadings: Ethnic Fiction as Regionalism in the Space of Influence
3. Kate Delaney – Moscow on the Hudson

Session 3: Cultural Readings II – Chair: Andrzej Antoszek

1. Blanka Grzegorzczuk – “To Be Made Perfect”: Transformed World Orders in Gloria Whelan’s *Fruitlands* and Lois Lowry’s *Giver* Trilogy
2. Beata Marczyńska-Fedorowicz – Digital War on Terror: American military and Iraq in videogames
3. Sławomir Konkol – That Communal Dream - Laurie Anderson's Re-Readings of Americanness

12:00 – 12:30

Coffee break

12:30 – 14:00

Paper sessions

Session 1: Reading American Policies and Politics III – Chair: Kate Delaney

1. Włodzimierz Batóg – The Crocodile and the United States. America in the Soviet Magazine of Satire *Crocodile*.
2. Renata Nowaczewska – American Philanthropic Foundations Abroad- from humanitarianism to cultural imperialism
3. Kirk Palmer – Military Means: The Use of Warfare in Early American Drama to Create a National Mythology

Session 2: Reading Ethnicity II – Chair: Jaroslav Kušník

1. Joanna Mstowska – Italian awakening from the American dream
2. Karolina Majkowska – Non-Reading Of America In Edwidge Danticat’s *Krik? Krak!*
3. Brygida Gasztold – When success is tragedy: the construction of a Jewish-American identity in immigrant novels *The Promised Land* by Mary Antin and *The Rise of David Levinsky* by Abraham Cahan.

Session 3: 20th-century Literary Readings I – Chair: Justyna Kociatkiewicz

1. Jarosław Kuczyński – Un-mapping Faulkner
2. Zofia Szachnowska-Olesiejuk – The American Dream Gone Wrong – the dystopian novels of Hunter S. Thompson and Chuck Palahniuk
3. Beata Zawadka – (M)othering the *Nice Big American Baby*: the Prose of Judy Budnitz and the Problem of Contemporary American Identity.

14:00 – 15:15

Lunch

15:15 – 16:45

Paper sessions

Session 1: 20th-century Literary Readings II – Chair: Marek Wilczynski

1. Justyna Kociatkiewicz – Reading of a Reading of America: Coover's *The Public Burning*
2. Patrycja Antoszek – Robert Coover's Comic Pornotopia in *The Adventures Of Lucky Pierre*
3. Urszula Niewiadomska-Flis – The fall of the house of elite: the reading of Southern aristocracy through architectural correlative

Session 2: 20th-century Literary Readings III – Chair: Paweł Stachura

1. Marta Koval – The Enigma Of Untold Stories. Narratives Of The Present As Mirrors Of The Past In T. C. Boyle's Novel *World's End*
2. Jaroslav Kušník – Border Crossing: American Dreams, Illusions and Fictions in Paul Auster's *Man in the Dark* (2008)
3. Larysa Lubenets – Glimpse on America through the novels of Vladimir Nabokov

Session 3: Reading American Futures – Chair: Zuzanna Ładyga

1. Paweł Pyrka – Dispatches from the Relativistic Shuttle. Strategies of War and Narration in Joe Haldeman's *The Forever War*.
2. Anna Gilarek – The vision of a Nazi United States – fantasy and reality
3. Paweł Frelik – "With a bang!" – the U.S. on the brink in Richard Kelly's *Southland Tales*

16:45 – 17:15

Coffee break

17:15 – 18:45

Paper sessions

Session 1: Reading American Politics and History – Chair: Włodzimierz Batóg

1. Szymon Leszczyński – Ronald Reagan – (mis)reading a presidency
2. Maciej Maślowski – Reading the book of America. Conspiracy theories and the early Puritan thought on the track of the ultimate meaning of American history

Session 2: Cultural Readings III – Chair: Jerzy Kutnik

1. Ewa Partyka – Does America Fart, Burp and Pee? Misreading the American Popular Culture
2. Emilia Książniak – Big Boys and Their Toys: Fusing Masculinity with ICT in American Advertising
3. Michał Zwoliński – (Mis)reading American Vampires: Same Old Beasts Or Something New?