A Concise Companion to American Studies

Edited by
John Carlos Rowe
A Concise Companion to American Studies
A Concise Companion to American Studies

Edited by

John Carlos Rowe
In memory of Emory Elliott
“One of those people on whom nothing is lost”
## Contents

List of Contributors  
Acknowledgments  
Introduction  
*John Carlos Rowe*

### Part I  Foundations and Backgrounds  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Puritan Origins</td>
<td><em>Philip F. Gura</em></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Laboring of American Culture</td>
<td><em>Michael Denning</em></td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Is Class an <em>American</em> Study?</td>
<td><em>Paul Lauter</em></td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
<td><em>Jay Mechling</em></td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>American Languages</td>
<td><em>Joshua L. Miller</em></td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Part II  Ethnic Studies and American Studies  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Blood Lines and Blood Shed: Intersectionality and Differential Consciousness in Ethnic Studies and American Studies</td>
<td><em>George Lipsitz</em></td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Contents

8. Native American Studies  
   *John Gamber*  
   172

9. The Locations of Chicano/a and Latino/a Studies  
   *Richard T. Rodriguez*  
   190

10. African American Studies  
    *Jared Sexton*  
    210

11. Reckoning Nation and Empire: Asian American Critique  
    *Lisa Lowe*  
    229

## Part III The New American Studies

12. Western Hemispheric Drama and Performance  
    *Harilaos Stecopoulos*  
    247

13. Postnational and Postcolonial Reconfigurations of American  
    Studies in the Postmodern Condition  
    *Donald Pease*  
    263

    *John Carlos Rowe*  
    284

15. Sugar, Sex, and Empire: Sarah Orne Jewett’s “The Foreigner”  
    and the Spanish-American War  
    *Rebecca Walsh*  
    303

16. The Rapprochement of Technology Studies and American Studies  
    *David E. Nye*  
    320

17. The World Wide Web and Digital Culture: New Borders,  
    New Media, New American Studies  
    *Matthias Oppermann*  
    334

## Part IV Problems and Issues

18. Regionalism  
    *Kevin R. McNamara*  
    353

19. The West and Manifest Destiny  
    *Deborah L. Madsen*  
    369

20. Canadian Studies and American Studies  
    *Alyssa MacLean*  
    387
Contents

21. The US University under Siege: Confronting Academic Unfreedom 407
   Henry A. Giroux

22. Popular, Mass, and High Culture 432
   Shelley Streetby

Index 453
Contributors


**Michael A. Elliott** is Winship Distinguished Professor of English and American Studies at Emory University. He has published articles on the History of Ethnography, Native American Literature, and Public History. He is the author of *The Culture Concept: Writing and Difference in the Age of Realism* (2002) and *Custerology: The Enduring Legacy of the Indian Wars and George Armstrong Custer* (2007). He is also, with Claudia Stokes, the co-editor of *American Literary Studies: A Methodological Reader* (2003).

**John Gamber** is Assistant Professor at Columbia University in the Department of English and Comparative Literature and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race. He received his BA from the University of California, Davis, his MA from California State University, Fullerton (both in Comparative Literature), and his PhD (English) from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Professor Gamber’s research interests in Ethnic and Literary Studies include Ecocriticism, Transnationalism, Diaspora, Immigration, Relocation, American Indian, Asian American, African American, Chicana/o and Latina/o Literatures, and Literature of the Americas. He has co-edited *Transnational Asian American Literature: Sites and Transits*, and published articles about the novels of Gerald Vizenor (Anishinaabe), Louis Owens (Choctaw/Cherokee), and Craig Womack (Creek), among others, in several edited collections and journals, including *PMLA* and *MELUS*. His current book project, entitled *Positive Pollutions and Cultural*
List of Contributors

Toxins (forthcoming), examines the role of waste and contamination in late twentieth-century US Ethnic Literatures.

Henry A. Giroux currently holds the Global TV Network Chair Professorship at McMaster University in the English and Cultural Studies Department. His primary research areas are: Cultural Studies, Youth Studies, Critical Pedagogy, Popular Culture, Media Studies, Social Theory, and the Politics of Higher and Public Education. He is on the editorial and advisory boards of numerous national and international scholarly journals, and he serves as the editor or co-editor of four scholarly book series. He has published numerous books and articles, and his most recent books include: The University in Chains: Confronting the Military-Industrial-Academic Complex (2007), Against the Terror of Neoliberalism (2008), and Youth in a Suspect Society: Democracy or Disposability? (2009).

Philip F. Gura is the William S. Newman Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received his doctorate in the History of American Civilization from Harvard University and is the author of 10 books, including: A Glimpse of Sion’s Glory: Puritan Radicalism in New England; Jonathan Edwards: America’s Evangelical; and American Transcendentalism: A History. He is also an editor of the Norton Anthology of American Literature. He is an elected Fellow of the Society of American Historians and member of the American Antiquarian Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Colonial Society of Massachusetts. In 2008, the Division on American Literature to 1800 of the Modern Language Association named him Distinguished Scholar.

Paul Lauter is A. K. and G. M. Smith Professor of Literature at Trinity College, and general editor of the groundbreaking Heath Anthology of American Literature. Lauter was active in the civil rights, peace, and labor movements; he worked for a number of social cause organizations, including the American Friends Service Committee, served as a union official at the State University of New York, and co-authored a book about the 1960s, The Conspiracy of the Young. His most recent books are From Walden Pond to Jurassic Park, an edited volume of Thoreau’s writings, and (with Ann Fitzgerald) Literature, Class and Culture. He has received the Jay Hubbell Medal for lifetime achievement in American Literary Study, awarded by the American Literature Section of the Modern Language Association, and the Bode-Pearson Prize of the American Studies Association for lifetime achievement in American Studies.

George Lipsitz is Professor of Black Studies and Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His publications include American Studies in a Moment of Danger, Footsteps in the Dark, Time Passages, Dangerous Crossroads, and The Possessive Investment in Whiteness. He is editor of the Critical American Studies
series at the University of Minnesota Press and co-editor of the American Crossroads series at the University of California Press. His book *Midnight at the Barrelhouse: The Johnny Otis Story* is scheduled for publication in 2010. Lipsitz has been active in struggles for fair housing and educational equity. He serves as Chairman of the Advisory Board of the African American Policy Forum and sits on the Board of Directors of the National Fair Housing Alliance.


Kevin R. McNamara is the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of Los Angeles*, the author of *Urban Verbs: Arts and Discourses of American Cities*, editor of *Teaching “America” Abroad*, a special issue of *Journal of American Studies of Turkey*, and numerous essays about Cities, Urban Culture, Theories of Diversity and Multiculturalism, and International American Studies. He has been a Fulbright Scholar in the Czech Republic and Turkey, and a Fulbright Interfoundation Award grantee in Greece. Presently, he teaches at the University of Houston, Clear Lake.

Alyssa MacLean is a PhD candidate in English at the University of British Columbia, where she is completing a thesis examining nineteenth-century American literary representations of cross-border movement between Canada and the United States. Her research interests include theories of exile and mobility in North America, nineteenth-century US print culture, Black North American Literature, and transnational approaches to American and Canadian Studies.

Jay Mechling is Professor Emeritus of American Studies at the University of California, Davis, where he has taught since 1971. His degrees are in American Studies (BA at Stetson University, MA and PhD at the University of Pennsylvania), and he was one of four editors for The Encyclopedia of American Studies. He is a recipient of the American Studies Association’s Mary Turpie Prize for excellence in teaching and curricular development, and he is a recipient of both the Distinguished Teaching Award at the University of California, Davis, and the Davis Prize for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarly Achievement. He is the author of more than 100 scholarly articles and book chapters, and he was editor of Western Folklore, a quarterly journal. He is a Fellow of the American Folklore Society. His book On My Honor: Boy Scouts and the Making of American Youth (2001) brings together his work on Masculinities, Folklore, and Youth Cultures.

Joshua L. Miller is Associate Professor of English at the University of Michigan. He has published articles on twentieth-century US Literature, Language Politics, Visual Culture, and Race. His Accented America is a study of the rise of English-Only Americanism and literary Modernist experiments with mixed languages.

David E. Nye (BA at Amherst College, and MA and PhD at the University of Minnesota), has taught in Denmark since 1982. He has been a Visiting Scholar for a semester or more at MIT, Harvard, Cambridge, Warwick, Leeds, Oviedo, Notre Dame, and the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study. In 2005, he received the Leonardo da Vinci Medal, the lifetime achievement award of the Society for the History of Technology, for such works as Image Worlds (1985), Electrifying America (1990), American Technological Sublime (1994), Consuming Power (1998), America as Second Creation (2003), and Technology Matters (2006). He is also author of the forthcoming Artificial Darkness: From Blackout to Greenout (2010).

Matthias Oppermann is a Lecturer for American Studies and New Pedagogies at the University of Bielefeld, Germany. Since 2003, he has been a Visiting Researcher at the Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship at Georgetown University where he is the Electronic Projects Coordinator for the American Studies Crossroads Project. Since 2007, he has also served as Assistant Director for Electronic Projects at the Forum for Inter-American Studies at Bielefeld University. His research interests include the History of American Studies, Digital Storytelling, and Critical Pedagogy. He recently completed his doctoral dissertation on “The Reconstruction of American Studies in US Higher Education” at Humboldt-University, Berlin.

Donald Pease, Professor of English, Avalon Foundation Chair of the Humanities, Chair of the Dartmouth Liberal Studies Program and winner of the 1981
Science fiction in America has long served to reflect the country's hopes, desires, ambitions, and fears. The ideas and conventions associated with science fiction are pervasive throughout American film and television, comics and visual arts, games and gaming, and fandom, as well as across the culture writ large. Through essays that address not only the history of science fiction in America but also the influence and significance of American science fiction throughout media and fan culture, this companion serves as a key resource for scholars, teachers, students, and fans of science fiction. A Companion to American Studies is an essential volume that brings together voices and scholarship from across the spectrum of American experience. A collection of 22 original essays which provides an unprecedented introduction to the "new" American Studies: a comparative, transnational, postcolonial and polylingual discipline. Addresses a variety of subjects, from foundations and backgrounds to the field, to different theories of the "new" American Studies, and issues from globalization and technology to transnationalism and post-colonialism. Explores the relationship between America...