Netherlands American Studies Association

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15 februari 2009

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http://www.netherlands-america.nl

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NASA-NIEUWS

Bestuursbericht

NASA has been very busy. June saw a fascinating conference at the Vrije Universiteit on “War and War’s Aftermath,” featuring speakers from the Netherlands, Britain, and the United States. September saw a symposium in Utrecht on multiculturalism that coincided with the publication of *American Multiculturalism after 9/11: Transatlantic Perspectives*. In October the VU hosted a two-day international conference on “Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations,” which follows the publication of a book of the same title. This book, a collection of articles by scholars from many countries, is the fruit of many years work under the direction of the Roosevelt Study Center.

NASA members have received a copy of *American Multiculturalism* along with an appeal to renew their subscriptions. NASA has reluctantly concluded, however, that the tradition of sending members a “conference book” at regular intervals and at no additional cost can no longer be sustained. For one thing, we believe that the publication of conference papers in book form should no longer be automatic, but should depend upon the merit of the individual papers and their cohesion as a collection. *American Multiculturalism* is a strong anthology that can stand on its own merits. But not every conference need lead to a book. More important, the escalating costs of publishing means that it has simply become too expensive for NASA to include conference books in the price of the NASA subscription. Nevertheless, we will still publish conference books from time to time, and NASA members will enjoy a discount on the cover price.

This is not merely a negative decision forced on us by the need to conserve NASA funds. We also believe that NASA can better spend its time, energy and money on organizing conferences and symposia that are intellectually exciting, socially enjoyable, and attractive to our members. These events are also intended to reach out to students and members of the public, as well as stimulate wider discussion of American-related issues. We have also decided to encourage M.A. and Ph.D. students in American Studies by offering two grants each year to facilitate research in the United States. Meanwhile, one of our members, Marius Verhage, is talking to American Studies student organizations about how we can increase student participation in NASA—not only by increasing the number of students who attend NASA events, but also by involving students in initiating and organizing events.

I hope that you enjoy reading *American Multiculturalism*, a timely contribution to a debate that shows no signs of ending any time soon. I hope also that you decide to attend one—even all!—of the events that NASA works hard to organize. Ultimately, we believe, NASA’s primary goal is to bring people together to learn and argue about a nation that fascinates us all.

Adam Fairclough
Voorzitter NASA

**Important:** Can all NASA members please email either Carolina Groen or Giles Scott-Smith (rsc@zeeland.nl) so that we can assemble an up-to-date email list?

Thank you!
NASA Conference “War and War’s Aftermath, Ethical Dilemmas of the American Witness”

On 11 and 12 June 2009, the NASA organized the international conference “War and War’s Aftermath, Ethical Dilemmas of the American Witness” at the VU in Amsterdam. Speakers talked about the often-troubled interaction between combatant and noncombatant, between soldier, civilian, and war correspondent, and touched on all the gray moral areas that such contacts ignite, even into the lingering aftermath of conflict. Because American war in this century and the previous one has been global in its impact, we looked at a spread of countries where civilian deaths, injuries, and mutilations, as well as the devastation of cities and villages have vividly been made known to Americans.

The conference started on a lighter note, though, with a poetry reading at the ABC Treehouse in downtown Amsterdam on 10 June, organized by Karen van der Eng in cooperation with Donna DuCarme. After a torrential downpour outside, Jane Shore, W.D. Ehrhart, Daniel Morris, and Barry Goldensohn took the stage to read from some of their work. As if to offset the serious topic of the conference, all the poets focused on less grave subject matters, starting with Shore’s imaginative love poem A Yes-Or-No Answer. Like Shore, W.D. Ehrhart read poems about his family, focusing especially on poems that featured his daughter, including his moving Why I Don’t Mind Rocking Leela to Sleep. Daniel Morris took a more humorous approach, and his What I Learned Theorizing Museums from Candy received the most laughter of the evening. In the cozy and by that time hot and steamy upstairs of the Voetboogstraat 11, Barry Goldensohn closed the evening by reading poems that were alternatingly funny, for instance Second Coming, and more heart wrenching, for instance a newer poem about a war memorial in Berlin.

The conference proper started in the morning of 11 June by focusing on how photographers bear witness. The conference kicked off with an impressive introduction by the Dutch photographer Ruben Terlou of his own work in Afghanistan. Terlou dwelled extensively on how he interacted with the people he photographed; the language barriers and the cultural differences that existed between the photographer and his subjects, and how he sought to overcome them while also trying to adhere to ethical principles that he tried to uphold. In the Q&A session Marja Roholl and Martijn Kleppe tried to tease out whether Terlou saw himself principally as an artist or a journalist and to what extent Terlou was engaged with making news. Kleppe, who worked for the World Press Photo and sat in on juries of photojournalistic prizes, shared with the audience how such juries reach their decisions. Towards the end of the session, Terlou admitted that he leaned more and more towards being an artist. Marta Zarzycka’s paper that followed the Q&A zoomed in on how effective, iconic photographs of traumatic events—not unlike the ones Terlou sought to make—may also
desensitize audiences because they often focus on a narrow range of topics. In the final contribution on photography, Daniel Morris introduced several of Diane Arbus’ iconic photographs and tried to place them into a broader context.

The fourth session, held in the afternoon of 11 June, revolved around American war poetry. The renowned poet, memoirist, and combat veteran of the War in Vietnam W.D. Ehrhart gave a lecture about how American poets of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War rarely had something good to say about the experience of war. Interspersing his paper with telling lyric poems by Thomas McGrath, Howard Nemerov, John Balaban, himself and others, Ehrhart showed how twentieth-century American war poets have been remarkably similar in their renouncement of war. Ehrhart admitted in the Q&A session with Diederik Oostdijk that he felt that poetry is the most reliable medium to report on war since there is no reason to lie as no one really pays much attention to poems in the United States anyway. Following the Q&A session, Hugh Haughton, Lorrie Goldensohn, and Diederik Oostdijk explored more specific themes in poetry about war and war’s aftermath. Singling out Jorie Graham’s Overlord and Brian Turner’s Here, Bullet – Haughton focused on how contemporary poets have reflected on direct and indirect war memories. Goldensohn discussed whether any progress can be detected in American war poetry by discussing, among others, Robert Lowell’s For the Union Dead and Eleanor Ross Taylor’s After Twenty Years, while Oostdijk tried to find patterns of meaning in the Vietnam War poems by World War II veteran poets.

Naomi Wallace’s The Fever Chart, featuring three visions of the Middle East as the play’s subtitle states, was staged at Theater de Cameleon later that evening by students of the English Department at the VU. Marlisa Hommel and Lenette Vlasman directed the first act “A State of Innocence” in which a Palestinian mother (Lenette Vlasman) has an odd encounter with a young Israeli soldier (Thomas van Hout) at the Rafah Zoo, while a zealous old architect (Remy Overkempe) is ranting about the past. In the second sequence, “Between This Breath and You,” which Christine Overmeer directed, an Arab father (Zadok Samson) searches for his dead son’s lungs in a hospital clinic encountering an Israeli nurse (Marjolein Groenewegen) and a Moroccan-Israeli cleaner (José Romaris Cercos) on his way. In the third and final vision “The Retreating World,” directed by Shyama Daryanani, Richard Blaauw and Tom ten Hoeve shared the role of Ali, an Iraqi ex-soldier, who had to sell his beloved pigeons to keep afloat. Naomi Wallace met with actors, directors, and volunteers after the show to congratulate them on a wonderful performance.

The next morning on 12 June, Wallace spoke to the conference delegates and students about (the need for) engaged theater, and answered questions in a Q&A session hosted by Kristine Steenbergh. Wallace was quizzed especially about how her play had been received in the United States and in the Middle East and how the play developed in her mind.
The final session was devoted to war and war’s aftermath in fiction. In a session chaired by Adam Fairclough, Irina Kyulanova explored the relationship between learning about war and the coming of age in two contemporary novels: Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Everything is Illuminated*, an American novel aimed at the general public, and Mal Peet’s *Tamar*, a British novel written for young adults. Roland Bruijn talked about how John Hersey’s article “Hiroshima” as published by *The New Yorker* was received in the United States and the rest of the world, based on archival research done at the New York Public Library. Novelist Howard Norman was the final speaker at the conference. With witty interjections, he read from his upcoming novel *What Is Left The Daughter*, part of which takes place in Nova Scotia during World War II. After his reading, Barry Goldensohn and Christine Otten, writer-in-residence at the VU, interviewed him about the writing process and the evolution of a novel. The conference was well attended with about twenty-five people attending all sessions, but small enough in number and concentrated enough in focus to allow artists, scholars, and students to meet and talk to each other in a setting conducive to frank and open exchange. It was a fruitful and inspirational conference.

Diederik Oostdijk

**NASA Conference “Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009”**

On 15 and 16 October, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam hosted the two day conference organized by the Roosevelt Study Center, the Vrije Universiteit, the John Adams Institute, the NASA and Erfgoed Nederland. In seven sessions, the historical overview of 400 years of close relations across the Atlantic produced by ninety authors in *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009* was assessed. The mix of organizing institutions determined the interesting mix of topics ranging from general to more specialist.

On the morning of 15 October Mr. Frans Timmermans opened the conference. In his opening speech, he recalled the striking parallel of an early embrace of individual rights in Dutch and American history. Reflecting on the program of NY400 he saw its value in the reflection on Dutch identity, in increasing the volume of transatlantic contacts and contracts and a corrective revival of Dutch enthusiasm for the United States. He moderated Dutch expectations for American interest in the Low Countries, Holland is not on the mental map in the U.S. and he encouraged historians to stay close to their craft and resist the politicization of writing history.

This last comment was well received and dutifully observed. The first speaker, Willem Frijhoff emeritus of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, directly took up the issue of identity by drawing attention to the construction of a ‘Dutch’ identity after the Dutch had surrendered New Amsterdam to the English. He emphasized the integration of New Netherland in the
Atlantic World, which was elaborated by Claudia Schnurmann of Hamburg University and Victor Enthoven of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Schnurmann, the second speaker, emphasized that researchers of this area and period should avoid the pitfall of nationalist history, which was especially strong in the mercantilist states France and England. Schnurmann and Enthoven shared telling examples of continued trade between merchants in the Dutch Republic and the colonies which represented an informal empire of trade in bulk and consumer goods and led to intercolonial diplomacy. In the eighteenth century Dutch traders facilitated the American colonists to evade the protective English Acts of Navigation and indirectly helped them to boost their own position. The continued presence of Dutch traders kept open the back door to escape British duties.

In the second session, Wim van den Doel of Leiden University led the ties into the nineteenth century. The transnational elements continued to play a major role, thanks to an increase in global trade and industrialisation. He took issue with making the transatlantic migration too unique: equal numbers of immigrants left or circulated within Asia. Bruce Kuklick of the University of Pennsylvania questioned whether Americans had a clear understanding of the Dutch, since the term Dutch shifted in meaning throughout the four centuries that the book covers: politically it included the Austrian Netherlands (now Belgium), in the seventeenth century; the central government was weak, and ethnically it was diverse region. Culturally many Americans took Flemish and Dutch painters as one group. He saw the value of the book in the effort to create Dutchness out the interaction with a significant other: the United States. He suggested an alternative road to retrieve this Dutchness and that is by following the meaning of the word Dutch in the American use of the English language. He claimed that World War II made the Dutch turn away from the continent and towards America for a positive model for their own identity. Michael Wintle from the University of Amsterdam also looked closely to the Dutch identity formation in the nineteenth century despite the fact that actual interaction between the two countries was so limited. Transport lines of the Dutch shipping companies were highly efficient and emigration from the Netherlands acted as a safety valve for religious tensions.

Yet, the impact of American culture on the Netherlands remained restricted before World War II as Doeko Bosscher from the University of Groningen in the third session proved from the few cases of actual exchange and illustrated with his own family history. Jan de Vries, UCLA, and Ruth Oldenziel, Eindhoven University, confirmed this conclusion. De Vries showed how Dutch and American family forms and material culture remained recognizably similar when both societies moved toward the breadwinner-homemaker household model in the nineteenth century. The two societies differed in the speed of shifting to the new industrious revolution and the attendant consumer practices of the past 50 years. The Netherlands showed a stronger persistence of the breadwinner-homemaker model than the U.S. Oldenziel illustrated this distance by focussing on the limited attraction of the American kitchen in the Netherlands.

In a special, parallel, session sponsored by the Netherlands Institute for Heritage Joel Grossman, City Archaeologist of New York, and Jaap Jacobs, author of *New Netherland: A Dutch Colony in Seventeenth Century America*, discussed the material and mental legacies of the Dutch in New Netherland.

The first inspirational conference day was concluded with a magnificent performance of Champagne Charlie, a
blues and stringband from Middelburg.

The next morning on 16 October, Duco Hellema of Utrecht University explained how the recent Dutch foreign and security policy is more oriented towards the United States than during the Cold War years. Ruud Janssens and Marianne van Leeuwen, both of the University of Amsterdam introduced a critical analysis of the working of alliances, which depend on commitment and loyalty. Alliances allow differences of opinion. The Dutch-American alliance should be taken in a European context. Occasionally the Dutch used their American card to thwart desires of their European neighbors.

The economic relationship was the focal point of the sixth session led by Bob Reinalda of the Radboud University Nijmegen. He analysed the Dutch government’s postwar shift from Germany and towards the Atlantic economy and how the active Dutch participation in international forums increased their influence. Keetie Sluyterman, Utrecht University, and labor historian Tom Etty looked at what happened in the Dutch economy, to explain why Dutch companies wanted to enter the huge, but complex American market and how American companies in the Netherlands operated from an anti-union tradition.

The final session compared and contrasted ‘Religious America with ‘Secular Holland’. This lively session was led by James Kennedy, University of Amsterdam. Philip Jenkins, Pennsylvania State University, revealed the dark reputation of the Netherlands in traditionalist circles in America and how immigration keeps religion alive. Secularization leads to smaller families, which undermines organized religion. Hjime Stoffels, Vrije Universiteit, presented historical examples of Dutch protestant ties with the U.S. and compared those with real and virtual encounters of Dutch citizens and various forms of American religions. Corwin Smidt, Calvin College, zoomed in on the traditions of Dutch-Americans and in what way they could act as a bridge or interpreters between the two countries. Since they differ greatly from the majority of the Dutch, one should not expect too much from this mediation.

The last session of the conference linked history to the contemporary debate about immigration policies in Europe. Fittingly, the day was concluded with an interview and questioning of Christopher Caldwell, author of the book Reflections on the Revolution in Europe: Immigration, Islam, and the West, by journalist Joris Luyendijk.

Seventy-five people attended the conference and all participants can look back on two rich and fruitful days, which proved that Dutch-American studies are as viable as ever. The lively discussion during the conference generated several themes for future research, among which the development of Dutch families, the strength and limitations of national boundaries, the role of informal (commercial) ties, the impact of other regions, and the moral standards of alliances.

The conference was co-financed by the Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs, the American Embassy in The Hague, the Province of Zeeland (via the Roosevelt Study Center), the Netherlands American Studies Association, de University Library of the Vrije Universiteit, Erfgoed Nederland and the John Adams Institute.

Hans Krabbendam
NASA Research Grant

As of 1 January 2010 NASA will be offering two grants of €500 each to help defray the cost of travel and accommodation for research trips to the United States. These will be available for M.A. and Ph.D. students only. Only NASA members are eligible to apply.

The regulations are as follows:
1. Each applicant must submit a 500-word proposal outlining their research project, an itinerary of their intended research trip to the United States, and a CV.
2. The deadline for submitting applications is 1 December 2009.
3. All applications should be send to Giles Scott-Smith at g.scott-smith@zeeland.nl.

A committee formed by the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer of NASA will assess the applications and announce the successful candidates by 31 December 2009.

Within a month of completing their research trip, each successful candidate will write a brief report (1,000 words) on their experience, which will be placed both in the NASA Newsletter and on the NASA website.

Amerikanistendag 2010

The eighteenth NASA-Amerikanistendag will take place at the Universiteit van Amsterdam on 5 March 2010. The theme will be “Reconciliation and Change: Hopes of Harmony and Reform in American History, Literature, and Culture”. A call for papers revealing the keynote speakers will be issued shortly.

For more information please contact dr. Eduard van de Bilt at E.F.vandeBilt@uva.nl.

U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands Ms. Fay Hartog Levin

Ms. Fay Hartog Levin is the 65th Ambassador of the United States of America to the Netherlands.

She presented her credentials to Her Majesty Queen Beatrix on 19 August 2009.

Ambassador Levin was a senior consultant at Res Publica Group from 2006-2009, after a career in the public sector. At Res Publica, she advised clients on all aspects of internal and external communications and relationship building, emphasizing the non-profit and cultural sector. She assisted non-profits to develop strategic partnerships, to leverage their visibility, and to maximize their support among traditional and non-traditional audiences and funders.

Previously, at Chicago’s Field Museum, Ambassador Levin served on the executive management team as Vice President for External Affairs from 1997-2005. In that capacity,
she led the Museum’s campaign for public funding. She was the Museum’s liaison to the City and its many departments and led the Museum’s outreach activities to a variety of community organizations. In her capacity as Vice President, she supervised the Department of Public Services, Human Resources and Information Technology.

As an attorney, Ambassador Levin began her career as a legal advisor to the Illinois State Board of Education, advising the State Superintendent and Regional Superintendents of Education on the interpretation and application of the Illinois School Code. In private practice, she joined the law firm Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather and Geraldson, representing primarily school boards, private and public colleges, and social service agencies. She published many articles and was a frequent speaker on a variety of topics related to school and employment law and crisis management.

Ambassador Levin was a member of the Illinois Arts Alliance Board from 1997-2009, and served as Chairman from 2006-2008. She also served on the Board of Trustees of the Merit School of Music and DePaul University. She was a member of the Advisory Board of U.S. Bank in Chicago. She had previously served on the Boards of Columbia College Chicago and the North Suburban Special Education District Foundation.

Ambassador Levin is a graduate of Northwestern University with a degree in Russian language and literature. She received her J.D. from Loyola University School of Law. Her parents were Dutch citizens who left the Netherlands during WWII, and immigrated to the U.S. thereafter.

**Great Compromisers: Edward Kennedy and James Eastland in the U.S. Senate**

On a morning in 1962, shortly after Edward Kennedy had been elected to his first term in the United States Senate, the young senator from New England met with James Eastland of Mississippi to discuss committee assignments. Eastland was the powerful chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, a body that has jurisdiction over important issues ranging from constitutional amendments to civil rights. Eastland was a reactionary southern Democrat primarily known for his opposition to racial equality; one of his fellow senators branded him as a “symbol of racism in America,” while Clarence Mitchell of the NAACP did not mince any words to describe Eastland’s appointment to the chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee in 1956. With the planter-politician from Mississippi at the helm of the committee, “a mad dog is loose in the streets of justice,” Mitchell said.

But Eastland’s image of the racist villain tells us only part of the story. In the intricate political culture of the U.S. Senate, the worst ideological enemies are sometimes best friends on a more personal basis. Reporter John Averill discussed this discrepancy in an article titled “Senator Eastland is Top Paradox in the Senate,” which appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* of September 15, 1965. Averill discovered that the public perception of Eastland did not quite match with the opinion most of his Senate colleagues had of him. “Even those liberals who disagree most violently with Eastland paradoxically regard him with great respect and perhaps even a degree of affection,” Averill wrote.
Ted Kennedy also belonged to that group of liberals who had a love-hate relationship with “Big Jim” Eastland, the Godfather of Mississippi Politics. Although Kennedy and Eastland represented totally different worldviews, there was a striking similarity in the way both senators functioned in the political arena. In their rhetoric, they showed little room for compromise, but behind the scenes, these politicians were masterful power brokers who understood the art of bargaining to get things done. Kennedy greatly respected Eastland, and the Mississippi senator provided his colleague from Massachusetts considerable leeway on the Judiciary Committee to express his views and pass legislation that was favorable to his constituency.

The friendly bond between James Eastland and Ted Kennedy was anathema to a majority of white voters in Mississippi, however. The liberal leanings of the “Hero of Chappaquiddick” disgusted the conservative electorate of the state. One angry voter wrote Eastland in 1974 that even Watergate could not erase Kennedy’s “irresponsible actions and a wife wearing hot pants a few years ago in a national magazine.” It therefore took some time before Senator Eastland publicly came out for his friendship with the youngest of the Kennedy brothers. In the spring of 1978, when Eastland had already announced his retirement, he invited Ted Kennedy as the commencement speaker at the University of Mississippi (or Ole Miss), the state’s flagship school and described by some as the last bastion of the Old South. In his speech, Kennedy told the audience how surprised he was when he received the invitation. Bewildered, he had asked Eastland the following: “How can you invite a Kennedy to be graduation speaker at Ole Miss?” The blunt reply: “Because I’m not running for re-election.”

The relationship between Edward Kennedy and James Eastland is just one example of the personal networks that characterize the politics of the U.S. Senate. These networks enabled Kennedy to emerge as the great compromiser, whose leverage was based on his ability to reach across the ideological aisle and work together with people like Eastland. Although Eastland operated from the other side of the political spectrum, he also employed similar strategies to achieve legislative goals. Nonetheless, the image of southern white supremacists as intransigent demagogues persists. Racist and conspiracist oratory was undoubtedly a vital part of the segregationist political style, in particular for politicians at the local and state level. But for national legislators like Eastland, the ability to compromise was just as important as the creation of reactionary rhetoric. It is this janus-faced quality of southern Democrats such as James Eastland that delivered them the respect and power they needed to remain politically effective, both in their home states and on Capitol Hill.

Maarten Zwiers
Promovendus RUG

Is the United States a Democracy or a Republic?

After the widespread euphoria over Barack Obama’s election last year, it is instructive to come down to earth again by observing the messy process of lawmaking. Although the president of the United States is commonly described as “the most powerful person in the world,” the fate of Obama’s most important policy proposal, health care reform, is currently being decided by the Senate Finance Committee, which is dominated by politicians elected by small population states like Montana and North Dakota. Moreover, it is now an article of faith that when a bill eventually emerges from the committee stage, it will need the support of 60 senators to ensure passage by making it “filibuster proof.” The “filibuster”—in days of old employed by southern senators to block civil rights bills—has become a routine weapon in the hands of the minority party.
The Founding Fathers, of course, designed the Constitution, with its complicated system of checks-and-balances, so as to frustrate majority rule, envisaging the Senate as a conservative bulwark against the directly-elected House of Representatives. They did their work well. Despite the extension of the franchise and the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution, which provided for the direct election of Senators, the Senate is still massively biased in favor of small states. A voter in Wyoming, for example, has one hundred times the representation of a voter in California. The filibuster further magnifies the power of small states. Theoretically, senators representing a mere 4 percent of the population can block a bill favored by senators representing the other 96 percent. In practice, the imbalance is not so extreme because senators from the eleven smallest states do not vote as a bloc. Still, it is not unusual for senators representing 15 or 20 percent of the population to talk a bill to death.

There are many varieties of democratic government, and none of them feature simple majority rule. It can be fairly argued that the Dutch model—along with Israel the purest example of proportional representation—comes closest to that ideal. However, the fact that every government is a coalition means that no single party can implement its electoral program without negotiation and compromise. The British model has the virtue of simplicity in that most elections give a single party a commanding majority in Parliament, enabling it to translate its campaign promises into legislation. Yet that ruling party rarely commands the votes of more than 40 percent of the electorate.

The power of the Senate—not to mention that of the Supreme Court—makes the United States something of an outlier among modern democracies. What is striking is not so much the absence of majority rule but the power of very small minorities. The president can fairly claim to be the most direct and authentic representative of the national electorate. Yet no president, even one elected by a clear majority, has a “mandate” for change—not, at any rate, a mandate that the Senate, or even the members of his own party, are bound to respect. Judging by the nearly total lack of interest in constitutional or electoral reform, however, it seems that few Americans regard their political system as anything other than democratic.

Adam Fairclough

**EAAS NIEUWS**

As of April 2009, EAAS has a new treasurer: Stephen Matterson of Trinity College, Dublin, who had already served in this capacity from 1996 to 2000, has taken over from Tony Emmerson of the University of Ulster after the latter’s resignation in March 2009.

**EAAS 2010 Conference in Dublin**

The next EAAS conference, titled “‘Forever Young’? The Changing Images of America,” will be co-hosted by Trinity and University Colleges Dublin, Ireland, and the Irish Association for American Studies and will take place during 26-29 March 2010. During EAAS’s last board meeting in April 2009, 24 workshops were selected out of 42 submissions.

An online registration form will be made available shortly at the EAAS website, www.eaas.eu.

2009 EAAS Rob Kroes Publication Award

Professor Astrid Franke (University of Tübingen) is the recipient of the 2009 Rob Kroes Publication Award. Her book manuscript, “Pursue the Illusion: Problems of Public Poetry in America,” will be published as volume 2 of the EAAS book series European Views of the United States. EAAS President Hans-Jürgen Grabbe is going to present the award to Astrid Franke during the March 2010 biennial conference in Dublin.

EAAS also wishes to recognize the achievement of the runner-up, Dr. Anna Pochmara (University of Warsaw), whose manuscript is entitled “Engendering the New Negro: A Gender and Sexuality Studies Analysis of Harlem Renaissance Discourse.”

For more detailed information on all EAAS activities, initiatives, and grants, please consult the EAAS website at: http://www.eaas.eu/.

EJAS

The online, peer-reviewed European Journal of American Studies publishes two issues a year, alongside which its flexible online format allows for Special Issues to be assembled and published whenever they are ready. The number of articles being submitted to the journal has been increasing through 2009. What is especially encouraging is that the number of history articles is rising. EJAS particularly hopes to encourage and become a platform for historical research being done across the American Studies community.

In 2009 EJAS has been preparing two further Special Issues, one on the US experience of minorities and immigration and one on US-Russian relations in the North-West Pacific during the early 19th century. These will be appearing in late 2009 and early 2010.

EJAS is always willing to discuss Special Issue plans and guest editorships with members of the American Studies community, so if you have a proposal that can be developed in this direction, please contact either Giles Scott-Smith (history) at g.scott-smith@zeeland.nl or Pawel Frelik (literature/culture) at ejas-lit@eaas.eu.
NIEUWS VAN HET ROOSEVELT STUDY CENTER

Stageplaats Roosevelt Study Center

Voor wie graag praktijkervaring wil opdoen in een wetenschappelijk instituut en de kennis over Amerika wil vergroten biedt het RSC een uitgelezen kans!

Het RSC heeft elk kwartaal ruimte voor een stagiair (m/v) in de bibliotheek voor een ouderejaars student Amerikanistiek of Amerikaanse geschiedenis met goede beheersing van de Engelse taal voor een periode van (bij voorkeur) drie maanden. Taken omvatten onder meer bibliotheekbeheer, voorbereiding van conferenties, redactiewerk, ontsluiting archieven, vertalingen, ondersteuning secretariaat en andere voorkomende werkzaamheden. Een deel van de tijd is gereserveerd voor eigen onderzoek.

Het RSC biedt een leerzame en gevarieerde werkomgeving, begeleiding en een standaard stagevergoeding (ongeveer €240 per maand) en eventueel een tegemoetkoming in huisvestingskosten. De stageperiode is bij uitstek geschikt voor studenten die een loopbaan als onderzoeker overwegen om de praktijk van wetenschappelijk onderzoek mee te maken.

Nadere informatie is te verkrijgen bij dr. Hans Krabbendam, aan wie ook de sollicitatiebrief met cv gericht kan worden. De eerstvolgende beschikbare periode is vanaf 4 januari 2010. Een sollicitatiebrief kan tot en met één maand voor het begin van de stageperiode ingestuurd worden naar RSC Postbus 6001, 4330 LA Middelburg.

Boekpresentatie Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations

Op 2 september presenteerde het Roosevelt Study Center Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009. Het eerste exemplaar werd overhandigd aan H.K.H. Prinses Margriet, petekind van Franklin D. Roosevelt. FDR schreef in een brief aan Prins Bernhard over zijn petekind: “Juliana and the children were at Hyde Park for three days and I have fallen completely in love with my godchild—the very best behaved baby I have ever seen. She took me at once and she was brought to my room in the mornings when I was having my breakfast, and she was perfectly happy playing with a spoon.” Scott Michael Roosevelt, FDR’s achterkleinzoon, was ook aanwezig tijdens de presentatie en refereerde tijdens zijn speech aan Franklin en Eleanor Roosevelt: ‘I feel confident that they would be greatly impressed by the volume of work that went into this book project. In his first inaugural address, my great grandfather said “Happiness lies not in the mere possession of money; it lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort.” Although he referenced these qualities in relation to a troubled economy some 76 years ago, I believe that he would feel that the same is true about an academic
accomplishment such as this. I hope that joy fills the hearts of all those who participated in this achievement and I know that happiness for those who dive into its pages will be the end product of this creative effort.’ De speech van minister van Buitenlandse Zaken Maxime Verhagen over het Nederlandse transatlantische beleid is terug te vinden op de website van het Roosevelt Study Center, www.roosevelt.nl. De presentatie werd afgesloten door dichter des vaderlands Ramsey Nasr met de voordracht van drie sonnetten. Deze sonnetten werden diezelfde dag gepubliceerd in NRC Handelsblad.

I - hudson’s shortcut

in wezen lagen jullie in de weg
wij kwamen meegevaren op de droom
van een malloot: die hudson had gezegd
dat hij een shortcut kende naar den oost

imper gerade aus langs de noordpool
dan kwam je snel in indië terecht
en wij geloofden deze vent, we volgden
zelfs toen hij ijskoud polste: ‘of naar west…?’

kapitein hudson was al eens ontslagen
en toen hij aan een vreemde baai bezwoer
dat we om in azië te raken slechts nog
dwars door amerika heen moesten varen
ten voeren we al niet meer – rotsvast geklemd
van kop tot kont in ’t nieuwe continent

II - nieuw amsterdam

de baai lag als een uitgestrekte vinger
vanaf het vaderland op ons te wachten
wij gingen er op pad, we stampten rond
wegwijzend in een leeg maar vruchtbaar gat
wellicht dat enkel uit ons lijf, dat nimmer
één volk, één god voor zich had kunnen winnen
dat zelf opreets uit schuim van minderheden
een babelstad als dit zich kon ontpinnen
wie leerde u hier het ware smelten? wie
zei: handel vrij, wees anders, wees gelijken
dat dromen zich als aandelen verspreiden?
de wereldkampioen in immigreren
dat waren wij, een verre vonk van vrijheid
amerika een holland in het klein

II - new amsterdam

the waiting bay lay like an outstretched finger
at the end of an invisible dutch arm
we went exploring, stamping round we found
our way in a deserted fertile backwater
perhaps no other body but ours, which never
managed to win one god, one people for itself
which rose from drifting, loose minorities
could lay the seed for such a babelopolis
who taught you how to use the melting pot?
who said, be equal, be diverse and free
your trade, who told you, dreams can spread like
shares?
the true world champions of immigration
we were, a distant spark of liberty
america, the netherlands writ small
III - nieuw nederland

o bron van humanisme, blakend lichtpunt
o bakermat van zeldaam burgerschap
wie luistert nog naar ons? dat zijn dan leiders
ze schallen hier hun christennormen rond
hangen fraai de morele misthoorn uit
maar in amerika (en nooit prime time)
doen ze het glimmend in hun broek van trots
stelen we tijd in het koelwitte huis

wat is een gidsland nog in zo’n positie?
wij varen braaf achter de grote baas
’t is imposant: een vloot van vijftig staten
plus nog een luchtbed om hen op te jagen
GEZOCHT: grote malloten met een visie
die dromen kunnen en de zee doen kraken

Ramsey Nasr
Translation: David Colmer

III - new netherland

oh font of humanism, oh shining beacon
oh cradle of exemplary citizenship
who listens to us now? we have our leaders
they blare their christian values round the place
and mount the moralistic foghorn high
but in america their frightened faces
all gleam with drooling pride, it’s not prime time
but still we steal a slot in the cool white house

what kind of model country toes this line?
we bob along behind the big boss boat
impressive, don’t you think? a fifty-state fleet
with an inspiring aired on at the back
WANTED URGENTLY: foolish fools with
vision
who dare to dream and make the cold sea crack

Book Presentations in the United States: 18-25 September 2009

After having presented the first copy of the book On 2 September 2009, the editors of the book *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009* to H.R.H. Princess Magriet of the Netherlands, the editors traveled to the United States and presented their book at the Woodrow Wilson Center and the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute.

In September the editors of the Four Centuries project were able to present the book at two important venues in the United States: The Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC, and the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI) at Hyde Park, New York.

The Wilson Center event on Friday 18 September was chaired by the Center’s head of its European division, Christian Ostermann, and included an introductory word by the Dutch Ambassador to the United States, Renée Jones-Bos, and a response by the former US Ambassador to the Netherlands, L. Paul Bremer III. The event was well-attended and following the presentations the audience asked several pertinent questions covering topics such as the importance of human rights in relations between the two countries, and the issue of whether there has been a general convergence in political outlook on both sides of the Atlantic. The presentation is available as a webcast here:
http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=events.event_summary&event_id=544118
On Friday 25 September a second book presentation took place at the FERI as part of a conference run by the Hudson River Valley Institute. The panel was chaired by FERI historian David Woolner and also included as speaker, alongside the editors, one of the book’s contributors, Firth Fabend. The presentation is available as a webcast here (scroll down the list on the left to find the Four Centuries panel):
http://www.totalwebcasting.com/view/?id=hrvi

**Aio-seminars RSC**

On October 7th the group of PhD students met at the Roosevelt Study Center to discuss race and politics in the American South. Five students from various Dutch universities had traveled to Middelburg to participate in the meeting. In preparation of the seminar everyone was asked to read four articles about the topic. Prof. Dan Carter started the seminar with a short introduction of the topic. The rest of the morning was used to discuss the first assigned article ‘More Than Race: Conservatism in the White South Since V.O. Key’.

After the lunch the group reconvened and talked about the other three articles as well as how far they were with their dissertation. Prof. Carter shared some of his experiences on writing a dissertation and writing a historical book in general.

The last meeting of the year will be held **16 December 2009**. The group will than be looking at each others work and provide comments on the submitted pieces.

The first aio-seminar of 2010 will be held on **10 March**. Professor James Bratt will be the guest lecturer. Those interested in joining the group may contact dr. Hans Krabbendam, jl.krabbendam@zeeland.nl.

**Verslag 1e prijswinnaar TRAHA 2009**


After a smooth journey over the Atlantic I found myself in a wonderful 18th floor room where I was welcomed by an enchanting view of the New York skyline. Until this trip I had never realized that only one of Americas presidents had been born in this city.
I was introduced to this fact the next day when I visited the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace in the pleasant company of Rob and Mary Lou Dalziel. A gracious guide of the National Park Service gave us a private tour through the old brownstone building and introduced us to the joys, struggles and tragedies connected to this house and the life of the young Teddy. I had never realized how little I actually knew about this extremely colorful president. Even now, I’m blown away by the great diversity of talents and interests that characterized Theodore Roosevelt and at the
same time intrigued by his childhood struggles with asthma as well as the influence this seemed to have on the development of his character and politics. Of all his many dimensions I think the side that left the deepest impression on me was TR’s love for nature and the outdoors. As he put it himself: There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness, that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy and its charm. Today one can find these words engraved in the impressive Theodore Roosevelt Rotunda of the American Museum of National History our next stop in the city. Here I had the honor of meeting Ms. Elizabeth Roosevelt, a relative of TR as well as Eleanor Roosevelt. As a volunteer Ms. Roosevelt often works at the Museum of Natural History and I could not have wished for a better tour guide. After an awe-inspiring exploration of natures riches we left the city for Long Island to visit Sagamore Hill the home of Theodore Roosevelt in Oyster Bay. In Oyster Bay I was invited to a picnic on Sagamore Hill. Before we got to that, though, I had the pleasure of meeting Norm and Linda Parsons who together with Rob and Mary Lou Dalziel took me for a walk to the scenic bay behind Sagamore Hill. At the picnic I was welcomed by superintendent Thomas E. Ross who presented a beautiful memorial coin of the 150th anniversary of TR’s birth to me. The next morning Elizabeth Roosevelt picked me up from the wonderful inn where I was staying and took me on a tour of Oyster Bay, visiting among, other things, the Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary, the Young Memorial Cemetery which contains TR’s grave and the Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park with its outstanding collection of plants. Afterwards Ms. Roosevelt invited me over for lunch at her cozy house right on the Oyster Bay. TRA president Howard Ehrlich took me on a private tour of Sagamore Hill and the surrounding area, bringing the history of TR’s home alive to me with great charm and enthusiasm. After spending two days in New York exploring the city’s Dutch heritage I hopped on a train to Poughkeepsie for my next destination: Hyde Park. The train ride turned out to be a wonderful journey along the Hudson river. Often the train would ride so close to the water that it seemed as if we were actually sailing on it. At Hyde Park I met the kind and hospitable people of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI) who introduced me to the world of TR’s niece and distant cousin. Together with FERI intern Nick Mayr I visited FDR’s home Springwood, his long planned retirement retreat Top Cottage, Eleanor’s cozy home Val-Kill as well as the impressive Vanderbilt Mansion and gardens. After visiting Springwood with its seemingly ubiquitous presence of FDR’s mother, Sara Delano, in almost every detail of the house I could very well imagine how much Eleanor must have appreciated retreating to her own house: Val-Kill. I very much appreciated the simplicity and hominess of the house and could very well imagine Mrs. Roosevelt writing her columns at the desk in the living room. Over and over again I was touched by the courage, energy and initiative of this inspiring woman. At Top Cottage we enjoyed a nice afternoon sitting on the porch soaking up the wonderful view while listening to stories about the many dignitaries like the Dutch royals - that regularly visited this place. One of my favorite stories recalled the famous picnic where Roosevelt cooked and served hot dogs to Britain’s King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on the first state visit to the United States by a British sovereign. Unfortunately, FDR never really got to enjoy his retreat for the purpose for which it was build: retirement. On the other hand, as inventor of the concept, FDR was the only president who did get to enjoy his own Presidential Library. While wandering through the building after a behind the
scenes tour of the library stacks I was overwhelmed by the gigantic contribution of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to American and global history. What a great journey did America make with these two fascinating individuals!

All in all I think I was most touched by the more personal stories about the Roosevelts that unfolded on all the different sites I visited. My history classes had focused largely on the public and political whereas this trip opened up a new dimension to me: the private and the personal. Looking back on my trip I feel really excited to dive deeper into the lives and history of these fascinating characters who are all inspiring in their own particular way. Visiting these places so full of history was a huge blessing and a very enriching experience that I will carry with me the rest of my life. Consequently, I’d like to thank all who made this trip possible. I will never forget the great gift you gave me and hope that many Dutch students may be granted the same wonderful Roosevelt experience in the future!

Albertine Bloemendal

Aankondiging TRAHA 2010

Vanaf 1987 stelt het Roosevelt Study Center jaarlijks prijzen ter beschikking voor Master scripties over onderwerpen uit de Amerikaanse geschiedenis. De “Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards” zijn genoemd naar Theodore Roosevelt die niet alleen de 26e president van de Verenigde Staten van Amerika, maar ook een verdienstelijk historicus was. De prijzen hebben tot doel de bestudering van de Amerikaanse geschiedenis en het gebruik van de unieke boeken- en bronncollecties van het RSC te bevorderen.

Zij die voor de “Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards of the Roosevelt Study Center 2010” in aanmerking willen komen moeten hun Master scriptie vóór 31 december 2009 indienen bij de begeleidende docent Amerikanistiek van de universiteit waar zij studeren. Deze docent/hoogleraar selecteert de beschikbare scripties en zorgt voor inzending aan het RSC (maximaal twee scripties per universiteit). Nederlandstalige scripties dienen vergezeld te gaan van een Engelstalige samenvatting. De inzendingen zullen worden beoordeeld door de volgende juryleden:

Prof. dr. Adam Fairclough (Universiteit Leiden)
Dr. Jaap Kooijman (Universiteit van Amsterdam)
Drs. Albertine Bloemendal (eerste prijswinnaar 2009)

De uitreiking van de prijzen vindt plaats op 9 april 2010 in het Roosevelt Study Center te Middelburg.
The 8th RSC Lecture on Transatlantic Relations
10 March 2010

On 10 March 2010 the eighth in the RSC Lectures on Transatlantic Relations series will be given by Mr. A.W.H. Docters van Leeuwen. Mr. Docters van Leeuwen was the chairman of Stichting AFM (Autoriteit Financiële Markten) until June 2007 and will speak on ‘The Global Financial Crisis: Consequences for Transatlantic Relations’.

The Roosevelt Study Center has organised the Transatlantic Lectures Series since 2005, and previous speakers have included Prof. Karel van Wolfferen (‘The Bush Administration and Europe: The End of the Transatlantic Alliance?’), Bart Jan Spruyt (‘The Defence of the West: Neoconservatism and the Continuing Need for New Churchills’), Hubert Smeets (‘Putin’s Russia and the West: Troubled Waters?’), Prof. Ko Colijn, ‘The Netherlands, NATO, and Afghanistan: The Future of the Alliance’), and Prof. Gale A. Mattox (‘Barack Obama and a New Way of Foreign Policy Making’).

For more information on previous lectures please visit the RSC website, www.roosevelt.nl.

The lecture will begin at 4pm and will be followed by a reception.
If you wish to attend Mr. Docters van Leeuwen’s lecture, please register via rsc@zeeland.nl or 0118-631590.

FULBRIGHT INFORMATION

Interview Dan Carter

Professor Emeritus Dan Carter from the University of South Carolina at Columbia has been at the Roosevelt Study Center since the beginning of September. Professor Carter is the author of Scottsboro: a Tragedy of the American South and From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich: Race in the Conservative Counterrevolution, 1963-1994. While in Middelburg, he will work on a book project he had been putting on hold for the last few years.

Please tell us something about how you ended up in Middelburg. What do you think of the city? And what are your thoughts on the Netherlands?
I got to know about this place through my good friend Tony Badger [Master of Clare College, Cambridge and Paul Mellon Professor of History]. He has this long relationship with the Roosevelt Center and every now and then he would come out here to hide out and work on one of his projects. A few years ago, I came to Middelburg for a conference and met the director, Kees van Minnen for the first time. We got to know each other better when he came to the University of South Carolina where I was teaching. We talked about Middelburg and the Roosevelt Study Center, and I told him about a project that I had started on twice but had basically thrown away both times because I didn’t feel it was working. He suggested I apply
for a Fulbright scholarship to come to Middelburg to try and get away from distractions and concentrate on the book. So that’s how I ended up in Middelburg. Also, I must confess, it was a bit like 1996 when I was teaching at Cambridge University. At the same time a friend of mine taught at the University of Genoa and I went there to give a lecture. It was February; my wife, Jane, and I had left a rainy Cambridge to wake up the next day in a sunny beautiful Genoa, overlooking the Mediterranean. My wife told me “I wouldn’t mind living here for a few months.” And so I ended up applying for a Fulbright to the University of Genoa and taught there in 2000. She had the same reaction to Middelburg when we came here for the conference a few years ago.

So far Middelburg has been perfect. It is an ideal place if you want to work. I mean, I’m retired and should have plenty of time to work on the book. But back home there are so many distractions, while here I can more easily ignore the e-mails, other demands, and so forth. Besides, Middelburg is an easy city to live in, to get around, and the people here have been very friendly and helpful. Of course there is always the problem of accessibility to secondary materials when you go to a place without a major research library in your field. However, I knew this ahead of time. I brought some materials with me which I will use to make a first draft, get the backbone of the book done, and then when I go back to the States, I’ll spend some time in Columbia, doing research and filling in the places I don’t feel comfortable enough writing about until I do some more reading.

As for the Netherlands, it has been great. My wife and I enjoy biking, but since I retired we moved to mountainous western North Carolina and as a result have turned into hikers. The Netherlands is a great country for cycling, so we have been doing that a lot. It is exciting to get on your bike, or even the bus or train since you see so much more of the country than when you drive through it in a car. We’re also great travelers. There were many places that we would like to spend more time in or visit for the first time, so we try to see as many places as we can in and around the country. And of course the fact that so many people in the Netherlands speak English makes it a lot easier to get around. When we were in Genoa, we had to scramble to get by, learning a few words Italian.

Could you tell us something about the project you are working on at the Roosevelt Study Center?
I’m working on a biography of Asa “Forrest” Carter. Asa Carter was the speechwriter for George Wallace in the 1960s and a Ku Klux Klan leader in the 1950s. He later reinvented himself in the 1970s to become a bestselling novelist under the pseudonym “Forrest Carter”. His first novel, The Outlaw Josey Wales, was made into a film by Clint Eastwood. His fictional memoir The Education of Little Tree sold millions of copies. In the book I’m trying to use, what I think is, a moderately interesting story of one individual to deal with larger questions. On one level, his life is a very American one; that is, a life of reinvention. It is something many Americans have done over the history of the country. America is the place where you go and reinvent yourself and continuously keep doing so. To talk about the nature of that reinvention, I try to tie together why he chooses to reinvent himself as a Native American, and what this tells us about American’s perceptions of both Native Americans and their relation to the larger culture. The aspect of the story that drew me to it the most, however, was this question: how does somebody go from being a crazed, fascist, right-wing racist to being beloved by the New Age, Libertarians, liberals, counter-culture people of the 1970s and 1980s? That is what I am trying to figure out.
And of course once you begin writing about somebody you begin to see them better for it is the process of putting things together that helps make sense of the story. I will never fully understand how, but this man I am writing about had the ability to gather supporters, often marginal misfits in society. He had an unerring instinct for the fears of upset, angry, frightened people. Unlike George Wallace, who always knew when to stop, who had a sense of “I can push it to this point and no further”, Carter inevitably overreached himself in everything he did and thus marginalized himself. And because he had marginalized himself, he had to reinvent himself. He had become such a marginal figure because he didn’t grasp that white southerners, or the majority at least, wanted someone to “stand up” for them, but not go out and shoot or bomb people. Most people wanted their leaders to threaten, but not to actually engage in violence. When the pendulum swung and it became less fashionable for white southerners to use overt racism, Carter didn’t grasp it until the very last moment by which point it was too late. That’s why he gave up on that part of his life, and started again as a Native American wise man. That’s what interests me.

**Do you tap into a lot of interest in the history of the American south here in Europe?**
There is some interest in Europe in the history of the American south. I have been invited to several places to give a lecture. When I was at Cambridge, I taught three course which all dealt with either race or the American south. All three of these course had a lot of students in them and, as you know, at Cambridge students are not required to take specific courses. In Genoa I experienced a similar thing. I taught an undergraduate class there that was well attended so I would definitely say there is some interest. I think our perceptions about a country are usually shaped by popular culture and the mass media. Europeans know about the American south because they have seen films about this region, e.g. *Gone by the Wind*, or they watched TV series like *The Dukes of Hazard*. Their ideas of the American south are thus both comical as well as dark and cynical. As far as understanding the role of regions and the way in which the American south has played a critical and unique role in American politics, not many may know and I don’t expect them to. After all, how many Americans know about the distinctive role of the south in Italian history and culture? Popular culture has provoked interest but has not resulted in much knowledge.

**Do you think that Europeans can learn from the history of the American south?**
Especially now that we see an increase in popularity of right wing politicians in Europe?
I’m dubious about the idea that people can learn easily from the past. Knowing what happened in the past might help, but I think we must be very careful to apply that knowledge to current situations. You need to keep in mind we are talking about two very different continents. There are human aspects that are very similar, but the cultures may turn out to be quite different. Thus it broadens the way you think about things, but it is certainly not a “paint by numbers” set in which you can fill in the colors and then get the comparisons going. It is like the effort to get Americans out of their cars and onto bikes. I was talking to Ruth Oldenziel [Professor at the Technical University Eindhoven] who has done a good deal of research on this. In many American cities they created miles of bike paths similar to the ones in the Netherlands, thinking that people would automatically start biking. Their idea was, it works in the Netherlands so it is just a matter of replicating the bike paths and people should automatically switch to biking. However, as Professor Oldenziel’s research explains, it is not just the infrastructure that is needed; there is a whole process of socialization that needs to come with it. This may seem a silly kind of comparison, but I think it points to the difficulty of making facile cultural comparisons.
In the Netherlands we have this politician Geert Wilders. He employs similar methods as George Wallace did. He portrays himself as being the voice of the common man, arousing paranoia and inserting the idea that outsiders are coming to the Netherlands to try to corrupt Dutch identity/culture. He creates Dutch identity based on…

He bases the identity on how very different they [foreigners] are from “us”; everything those inferior people are, we are not, whether it’s religion, skin color or “culture”. Throughout the US, you have racism and xenophobia, but there is nothing quite like the history of white southerners and even south westerners in terms of somehow of the way they have combined intensely racial in a way that goes far beyond xenophobia. One example: for years, in the United States, we had all this research on lynching and the level of lynching. One of the most intriguing parts that complicated the importance of race, we thought, was that there appeared to be some kind of western-frontier phenomenon where whites were being lynched. In the south and particularly the deep south, ninety percent or more of the people who were lynched were African-Americans. So we thought, in the west, it obviously had to be a combination of the frontier tradition as well as race. Then Clive Webb and William Carrigan began looking more closely at lynching in the Southwest in the mid and late 19th century and discovered that many of these “whites” who were being lynched were in fact Latinos, Mexican-Americans and Native Americans. So there was a racist component to that part of the story as well. In a sense, religion here is what race was in the southern states. Of course in today’s Netherlands, the fact that many of these foreigners are Muslims is a major marker of difference. This makes it easier to set up the opposite of who you are. I did come to believe there was something to be learned from George Wallace’s practices in Alabama and his success throughout the United States. There are differences, but there are commonalities across Democratic cultures in the way in which demagogues can manipulate fear and paranoia, particularly during periods of economic dislocation.

I would like for people who read this to know what a great experience this has been to be able to concentrate on my project and to enjoy this city and the country. Before coming here I didn’t want anyone to know about this place, but now that I had my chance I would like for as many qualified people to get here and have the same opportunity as I have had. I have actually recommended a few friends to apply for this place and scholarship.

Martine Kaas
Maarten Zwiers

Fulbright Scholars winter/spring 2010

In winter/spring 2010, Professor James Bratt of Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, will hold the Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair at the Roosevelt Study Center. Professor Bratt’s principle teaching field is American intellectual and religious history. He was the director of the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship between 1999 and 2008. In 2005, he won the Ralph D. Gray Article Prize from the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic for his article in Journal of the Early Republic “Religious anti-revivalism in antebellum America”. He is the editor of Abraham Kuyper: A centennial reader (1998) and Worship, work, and worldview: a volume of case studies from American Religious history (forthcoming). Professor Bratt will use his time at the RSC to finish writing a biography of Abraham Kuyper (1837-1920), which he hopes will show an American audience the ways that Kuyper thought the interplay between these sectors should unfold, how he drew off (idealized) notions of American life in articulating that visions, and how and why the
resulting prescription nevertheless diverged significantly from the dynamics of pluralism that have predominated throughout most of American history.

**Dr. Michael Brian Haberman**, associate professor, English department, Fitchburg State College. He will teach at the University of Utrecht, starting January 2010. He will teach two courses on the religious diversity and syncretism underlying North America’s settlement, as well as the development of its earlier ecumenical dialogues, primarily within the context of the New England region. The courses will highlight his research on the history of a Jewish presence in New England, as well as on his work as an ethnographer. The first course, to be offered at graduate level, focuses on theological and commercial correspondence between Jews and Puritans during the colonial era. The second course, to be offered to undergraduates, is to be an introduction to the uses of folklore, oral history and an ethnographic approach in the study of American culture.

**Dr. Dennis Hirsch**, Capital University, School of Law. He will do research and teach at the University of Amsterdam, starting January 2010. His research is about using regulatory covenants to protect information privacy, and whether this Dutch innovation could work in the USA. He will lecture on the generation of new ideas for privacy regulation through a comparative study of US and EU approaches. Both his research and lecture component will seek to generate new ideas about privacy regulations.

**Fulbright Nieuws**

Het Fulbright Center heeft in samenwerking met de Netherland-America Foundation op 12 september 2009 een conferentie georganiseerd ter gelegenheid van de herdenking van 400 jaar Nederlands-Amerikaanse betrekkingen en in het bijzonder ter viering van het zestigjarig bestaan van het Fulbright Programma in Nederland. De titel van de conferentie was ‘Transatlantic Insights in Learning and Society’. Door middel van een hoogwaardige internetverbinding waren de zalen in gebouw De Waag op de Nieuwmarkt te Amsterdam en in het Levin Institute in New York met elkaar verbonden, waardoor de deelnemers aan beide zijden van de oceaan met elkaar in real time van gedachten konden wisselen. De conferentie is te zien zijn op killertv.nl.

Ter gelegenheid van NY400 en Fulbright@60 hebben hebben het Amerikaanse Department of State en het Nederlandse ministerie van OC&W besloten een tweetal extra beurzen te financieren, voor een Amerikaanse en een Nederlandse student. De beurzen zijn eenmalig beschikbaar voor het studiejaar 2010-2011 bedoeld om een jaar studie of onderzoek mogelijk te maken naar een of meer aspecten van de langdurige vriendschappelijke betrekkingen tussen beide landen. De beurzen zijn niet gebonden aan een studierichting maar natuurlijk uitermate geschikt voor studenten Amerikanistiek. De beurs voor de Nederlandse student vertegenwoordigt een waarde van $25.000. Zie http://www.fulbright.nl/?menutree=49 voor meer informatie.

Zeer onlangs heeft de Mees Pierson McKinsey Stichting, een organisatie die tot in de jaren negentig van de vorige eeuw beurzen verstrekte aan Nederlandse studenten ter ondersteuning van een MBA-opleiding in de V.S. besloten om zichzelf op te heffen en het overblijvende batig saldo te doneren aan het Fulbright Center, onder conditie dat van deze donatie Fulbright-beurzen zullen worden verstrekt aan Nederlandse studenten. Een precieze bestemming is nog niet bepaald, maar het totaalbedrag zal waarschijnlijk voldoende zijn om enkele extra beurzen per jaar te geven gedurende enkele jaren.
Steeds meer Nederlandse universiteiten beginnen te ontdekken dat het Fulbright Programma interessante mogelijkheden biedt om de Engelstalige programma’s op Master’s niveau te promoten door een institutionele beurs te koppelen aan Fulbright. Zo heeft de Universiteit Maastricht onlangs besloten om een beurs ter beschikking te stellen voor een Amerikaanse student waarbij de promotie en de selectie wordt uitgevoerd door het Fulbright Center in samenwerking met het Institute of International Education (IIE) in New York. Bekendmaking van het beurzenaanbod vindt plaats via de website van het IIE en via het netwerk van vertegenwoordigers in verschillende Amerikaanse regio’s. Ook de zogenaamde Fulbright-coördinatoren op Amerikaanse universiteiten spelen hierbij een rol. Ook andere universiteiten en universitaire instituten zoals het IHS te Delft, de Duisenberg School of Finance in Amsterdam en Nyenrode Universiteit bieden dergelijke beurzen aan. De directeur van het Fulbright Center, Marcel Oomen, is graag bereid een toelichting op de precieze werkwijze te geven.
Voor meer informatie over alle Fulbright activiteiten zie: www.fulbright.nl

Marcel Oomen

ORATIE

Giles Scott-Smith

On 5 October 2009 NASA treasurer Giles Scott-Smith gave his inaugural lecture for the Ernst van der Beugel Chair in the Diplomatic History of transatlantic Diplomatic Relations since WW II at Leiden University. His inaugural speech was entitled “Ghosts in the Machine? Ernst van der Beugel, the Transatlantic Elite, and the ‘New’ Diplomatic History”

The lecture focused on the important role that Ernst van der Beugel played in transatlantic relations during his wide-ranging career as diplomat, businessman, and cultural entrepreneur from the 1940s to the 1980s. Special reference was given to his friendship with Henry Kissinger, which began over lunch in 1957 and stretched through the ensuing decades despite the increasingly busy lifestyles of both men. The lecture also highlighted Van der Beugel’s influential role as a member of the transatlantic diplomatic-intellectual elite, exemplified by his position as both European Secretary of the Bilderberg group (1960-1980) and chair of the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London (1972-1985). By using this notion of an elite, the point was made that while van der Beugel’s traditional role as a diplomat would be covered in straight-forward Diplomatic History, his influence as an independent operator via for instance Bilderberg and IISS would not. To illustrate this point, an example of how his friendship with Kissinger came to have a direct impact on diplomatic negotiations between the Netherlands and the United States over KLM was used. The lecture therefore concluded:

Kissinger’s foremost concern, as van der Beugel rightly stated in his oral history, was stability in international politics. For this reason he would have understood the necessity to remove an irritating issue [on KLM] that was undermining the otherwise close relations between two allies. But it is hard to believe that he would have invested
such concern in the matter at that time without his friendship with van der Beugel. The traces of the transnational elite’s informal networks are therefore to be found in traditional diplomacy and policy-making, but they are not always immediately apparent. The task of a ‘new’ diplomatic history, therefore, is exactly to identify these traces and build up a broader, multi-layered picture of diplomatic relations that reflects the complexity of cross-border relations, both formal and informal, and their impact, in the transatlantic area.

The full text will be made available on the RSC website.

**NIEUWE PUBLICATIES**

*Derek Rubin and Jaap Verheul, eds.*

*American Multiculturalism after 9/11: Transatlantic Perspectives*  
(Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2009), 224 pag., ISBN 978 9089641441, €39.50

This groundbreaking volume explores the multicultural debate that has evolved in the United States and Europe since the cataclysmic events of 9/11. Instead of suggesting closure by presenting a unified narrative about cultural diversity, national identity, and social stratification, the essays in this well-balanced collection present a variety of perspectives, each highlighting the undiminished relevance of key issues such as immigration, assimilation, and citizenship, while also pointing to unresolved conflicts over universalism, religion, and tolerance. Most importantly, this volume shows that the struggle over multiculturalism is not limited to the political domain, but also has profound cultural implications.

*American Multiculturalism after 9/11: Transatlantic Perspectives* is an invaluable, thought-provoking addition to the debate about multiculturalism as central to the study of the United States in a global context.

*Hans Krabbendam, Cornelis A. van Minnen and Giles Scott-Smith, eds.*


Since Henry Hudson discovered Manhattan in 1609, the peoples of the Netherlands and North America have built their relationship in various ways. *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009*, written by a team of nearly one hundred Dutch and American scholars, is the first book to offer a comprehensive history of this bilateral relationship. Close to 1200-pages long, this illustrated volume covers the main paths of contacts, conflicts and common plans and is based on the most up-to-date research in the field. From the first exploratory contacts in the early
seventeenth century to the intense and multifaceted exchanges in the early twenty-first, the bilateral relations are imbedded in a larger transatlantic interdependent framework.

For anyone interested in the history and culture of the United States and the Netherlands and their bilateral relations in past and present, *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations* is a must-read and will be a much-used reference work by both academics and the general public in the years to come.

The editors of the book are affiliated with the Roosevelt Study Center. Sponsorship of the book has been provided by Delta N.V., Middelburg, The Netherland-America Foundation in New York, the A.C. Van Raalte Institute of Hope College, Holland, MI, and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Sylvia L. Hilton and Cornelis A. van Minnen, eds.  

The authors of the essays in this book amass considerable historical evidence illustrating various forms of political repression and its relationship with democracy in the United States, from the late-eighteenth century to the present. They discuss efforts, made mostly but not only by government agencies, to control actions and expressions of dissent, criticism, unpalatable truths, political opposition, or, indeed, any kind of opinions that threatened or inconvenienced powerful and privileged groups in the United States. The authors examine the justifications and multiple means of political repression, and identify individuals and social groups that have been victims of repressive attitudes and policies, because of their political ideology or opinions, or because they represented diverse racial, ethnic and religious minorities.

This volume, then, is a contribution to the discussion about the paradox of the historical and ongoing existence of political repression in the United States, within a democracy which theoretically guarantees individual rights and freedoms based on equality under the law.

Michael Boyden  
*Predicting the Past* (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 2009), 216 pag., ISBN 9789058677310, €39.50

Drawing from the social theories of Niklas Luhmann and Mary Douglas, Predicting the Past advocates a reflexive understanding of the paradoxical institutional dynamic of American literary history as a professional discipline and field of study. Contrary to most disciplinary accounts, Michael Boyden resists the utopian impulse to offer supposedly definitive solutions for the legitimation crises besetting American literature studies by “going beyond” its inherited racist, classist, and sexist underpinnings. Approaching the existence of the American literary tradition as a typically modern problem generating diverse but functionally equivalent solutions, Boyden argues how its peculiarity does not, as is often supposed, reside in its restrictive exclusivity but rather in its massive inclusivity which drives it to constantly revert to a self-negating
“beyond” perspective. *Predicting the Past* covers a broad range of both well-known and lesser known literary histories and reference works, from Rufus Griswold’s 1847 *Prose Writers of America* to Sacvan Bercovitch’s monumental *Cambridge History of American Literature*. Throughout, Boyden focuses on particular themes and topics illustrating the self-induced complexity of American literary history such as the early “Anglocentric” roots theories of American literature; the debate on contemporary authors in the age of naturalism; the plurilingual ethnocentrism of the pioneer Americanists of the mid-twentieth century; and the genealogical misrepresentation of founding figures such as Jonathan Edwards, Emily Dickinson, and Robert Lowell.

**Guido van Rijn**

*President Johnson’s Blues: African-American Blues and Gospel Songs on LBJ, Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy and Vietnam 1963-1968*  

President Johnson’s Blues illustrates how African Americans experienced the Johnson presidency. This is achieved by an analysis of blues and gospel lyrics of the period containing more or less direct social and political comment. The lyrics of these often very rare records, which have never been systematically transcribed before, are vital and hitherto neglected sources of oral history.

When Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson succeeded the assassinated President Kennedy he was hailed enthusiastically by the blues and gospel singers, most of whom had been born in the southern states and saw an ally in the new Texas president. Johnson’s acute political skills ensured that the 1964 Civil Rights Bill was approved by Congress. However, the President was not allowed to reap the benefits of the Act for long. The violent clash in Selma, Alabama, sped up the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Next, the plight of the black ghettos led to nationwide riots and the president and Rev. King drifted apart. Military build-up in Vietnam rose dramatically in the Johnson era. Proportionally there were not more African Americans in Vietnam, but their death rate was thirty percent higher. Johnson was forced to launch operation “Rolling Thunder” to intensify air attacks, but felt trapped by the consequences of his decisions and became severely depressed. People began burning their draft cards, and criticism of the once popular president became quite outspoken in blues and gospel lyrics. When Martin Luther King lashed out against the war in 1967, the president felt betrayed by his former civil rights ally. After the 1968 Tet offensive, Johnson’s approval rating dropped to 36%. The book also analyzes in depth the profound effect the 1968 assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy had on the African-American community. The resultant awakening of black self-consciousness is dealt with in a final chapter.

Also available: two CDs with forty-five of the songs discussed in the book (€15.00). Please visit the Agram website (http://home.tiscali.nl/guido/) for more information.
Jan Kragt and Marc Verhaegen

400 jaar geleden ontdekte een expeditie van de VOC het eiland Manhattan, waar 15 jaar later de stad Nieuw Amsterdam werd gesticht, het latere New York. In dit aangrijpend avontuur van bekende en minder bekende Nederlanders, Vlamingen, Walen en Noren, beleef je mee hoe ze samen de grondslag hebben gelegd voor het ontstaan van New York.

Volg Henry Hudson op de voet bij zijn onttrekking van Manhattan. Eerden de moed en vriendschap bij de eerste bewoners uit Nederland, maar ook hun hehuzie en de felle gevechten om het voortbestaan, waarbij soms gruwelijke wredeheden tegen de indianen werden begaan. Gebouwd op het bloed, zweet en tranen van de eerstelandse kolonisten is New York tot op de dag van vandaag onlosmakelijk verbonden met Nederland. Dat bijzondere gegeven werd meer dan waar bevonden om opgenomen te worden in de succesvolle historische stripreeks van Eureducation.


Book review

Bruce Kuklick

“It might seem miraculous for a relatively short textbook by a single author to treat the entire political history of the United States with comprehensive thoroughness alongside lightly-worn learning and sparkling wit. But miracles do happen, and Bruce Kuklick has done it.” These were reviewing words I heard on Bruce Kuklick’s most recent book: One Nation Under God: A Political History of the USA. Having never seen a miracle, I decided to dive into the manuscript myself.
In 300 pages, Kuklick explores U.S. history from the first indigenous peoples and the arrival of early settlers to the more recent terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001 and the election of America’s first African American president. Concisely, the most important aspects of America’s history are included, of which many are illustrated by maps, pictures, and interesting abstracts from primary sources. As a graduate student of American Studies, I found the book a great opportunity to revive and tidy up four years of history courses. Of course, because of its compactness, the book omits particular details. Nevertheless, for undergraduate students of American political history this book would be a valuable addition to their literature list.

Kuklick has divided his book into the following historical sections:

- The European Impact in America, 1494-1676
- North American Colonies, 1632-1732
- The Colonies in the Empire, 1651-1774
- War and Order, 1775-1787
- The Culture of Politics, 1788-1826
- From Coexistence to Expansion, 1783-1832
- Nationalism, Sectionalism, and Slavery, 1820-1861
- Lincoln and the Civil War, 1858-1865
- The Sections Integrated: South, West, and Northeast, 1865-1896
- The New Empire, 1890-1917
- Progressive America, 1900-1920
- The Crises of Progressive Capitalism, 1919-1933
- The Cosmopolitan New Deal in Depression and War, 1933-1945
- Cold War America, 1945-1963
- The Long 1960s, 1954-1975
- Cultural Divisions and Cultural Imperialism, 1968-2000
- Epilogue: America in History, 2001 and after

Bruce Kuklick is Nichols Professor of American History at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of ten books in the fields of American diplomatic, political, diplomatic, intellectual and sports history. He has also received every teaching award offered by the University of Pennsylvania.

Sanne Goossens
CALL FOR PAPERS

7th Biennial MESEA Conference The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas

On 16-20 June 2010 the University of Pécs, Hungary will host a conference on Trade, Travel and Ethnic Transformations.

Travel, movement and mobility are essential in human life: they shape individualities, histories and the stories people tell. In particular, labor, commerce, exile, tourism, transnational and transcontinental migrations have led to the socio-political and cultural production of dominant images of subjectivities and nationhoods. People’s identification with “imagined communities” and their experience with “encountered ones” has determined ethnicity’s and diaspora’s infinitely variable socio-political and cultural content. However, neither panethnicity nor transmigrant/postcolonial hybridity can resolve the crisis of a liberal commodified polity. Ideologies of difference and subjectivity need to be critically regrounded in the realities of global capitalism, political economy and the changing structures of institutional and disciplinary power. This conference, then, aims to focus on the ways that travel and trade contribute to the definition and redefinition of ethnic subjectivities in the realms of culture, politics, history, and sociology, economics and law, language, literature and the arts in Europe and the Americas.

Proposals can be submitted to our website between 15 August and 15 November 2009. Submitters will receive notification of acceptance or rejections by December 15, 2009. Inter/transnational and inter/transdisciplinary proposals as well as complete panels will be given preference. Note that MESEA will award two Young Scholars Excellence Awards. For more information please see: http://www.msea.org


The Felix Archive in Antwerp will host an international conference on 10-13 June 2010.

Tales of Transit will bring together insights and methodologies from migration and maritime history, translation studies and literary studies, and confront these with the rich but largely underexplored archive of transatlantic migrant narratives. In view of the opening of the Red Star Line Museum in Antwerp, “Tales of Transit” takes the city as its starting point to rethink transatlantic migration.

We encourage contributions offering comparative perspectives on migrants traveling through well-known as well as lesser known ports in Europe, Africa and the Americas. The focus may be broadened to include mainland cities functioning as nodal points for migration flows or border crossing points on the frontier between states or regions. Overall, the stress lies on how such liminal spaces are narrated or visualized in testimonies or fiction: How vital are these sites for the migrant’s tale? Do such loci affirm or rather subvert the migrants’ aspirations and hopes? Does the perspective shift in accordance with the linguistic medium or audience expectations and, if so, in what ways?
A more detailed description of the theme can be found on the conference website:
http://www.talesoftransit.eu

Paper proposals in English of no more 300 words can be submitted to
michael.boyden@hogent.be or liselotte.vandenbussche@hogent.be by 15 November 2009.
The academic committee will evaluate the abstracts and send out notifications of acceptance
by the end of November.

**Historians of the Twentieth Century United States (HOTCUS) 2010 Annual Conference**

The Third Annual HOTCUS Conference will be held at The Marcus Cunliffe Centre for the
Study of the American South at the University of Sussex on 1-3 July 2010. Papers from
members or non-members are requested on all topics concerning the History of the United
States from 1890 to the present. Proposals from scholars outside the UK as well as those
undertaking postgraduate study are especially welcome. The conference committee also
welcomes proposals for complete panels of three or four speakers. Please send a c.v. and a
précis of the proposed paper or session of no more than 300 words to Dr. Sandra Scanlon,
Department of International History, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London
WC2A 2AE or S.Scanlon@lse.ac.uk by 11 December 2009.

The Historians of the Twentieth Century United States is an organization that promotes the
broader awareness of, and exchange on, the U.S. during the century just past. Membership is
open to all. Those interested should contact Dr. Axel Schaefer, Membership Secretary, at the
David Bruce Centre, Keele University, Keele, Staffordshire, UK, ST5 5BG or
brucecentre@ams.keele.ac.uk. For membership forms and updates on HOTCUS events see
the HOTCUS website at http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/as/Dbruce/hotcus.html.

For more information about the conference experience at the University of Sussex, please
visit this informational site for delegates: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/conferenceservices/1-6-
2.html.

**HCA Spring Academy: American History, Culture & Politics**

The Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) invites applications from international
Ph.D. students for its seventh annual Spring Academy conference on American History,
Politics and Culture, which will take place from 22-26 March 2010 at Heidelberg University,
Germany.

This annual one-week conference on American History, Culture, and Politics provides twenty
Ph.D. students with the opportunity to present and discuss their Ph.D. projects. The HCA
Spring Academy will also offer participants the chance to work closely with experts in their
respective field of study. For this purpose, four workshops held by visiting scholars will take
place during the week.

The HCA Spring Academy aims to bring together postgraduate students in the field of
American Studies and to provide a forum for discussions on issues of American History,
Politics, Law, Economics, Sociology and Cultural Studies.
We encourage applications that range broadly across the arts, humanities, and social sciences and pursue an interdisciplinary approach. Papers can be presented on any subject relating to the study of the United States of America. Possible topics include American identity, transatlantic relations, U.S. foreign policy, gender, literature, issues of ethnicity, as well as different aspects of American history, religion, and culture.

You can apply for the HCA Spring Academy 2010 if you are already a Ph.D. candidate and your thesis topic is in the field of American History, Literature, Law, Politics, Religion, or Geography.

Deadline for applications is **15 December 2009**. Selections will be made by 8 January 2010. Please use the online application system at www.springacademy.de. For more information go to www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de.

**New International Association of Inter-American Studies**

In July 2009, the International Association of Inter-American Studies was founded by scholars from across Europe, the U.S., Canada, and Latin America. The Association seeks to promote the interdisciplinary study of the Americas, focusing in particular on interconnections between North, Central, and South American culture, literature, media, language, history, society, politics, and economics. Going beyond national points of reference, the Association aims to provide a worldwide network for scholars and students as well as for research initiatives, projects, and area studies in Latin American, Caribbean, U.S. American, and Canadian Studies. It plans to cooperate with existing national associations devoted to the study of the Americas and will facilitate dialogue between them and also strives to support young scholars entering the field. Current executive board members: Josef Raab (University of Duisburg-Essen), María Herrera Sobek (UC Santa Barbara), Wilfried Raussert (Bielefeld University), and Marietta Messmer (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen).

The Association will hold its first bi-annual conference in Essen (Germany), 11-13 November 2010. The conference topic will be “Transnational Americas: Difference, Belonging, Identitarian Spaces.” The deadline for proposing papers and/or panels will be **31 March 2010**. For further information, please contact Marietta Messmer (M.E.Messmer@rug.nl).

**‘Whose Vietnam? The enduring echo of the Vietnam War’**

A conference on the memories of the Vietnam War will be organized by the University of Amsterdam and the NASA. The conference will be held at the University of Amsterdam on 8 October 2010.

Ever since the end of the Vietnam War, debate has continued to exist on fundamental issues of the war and its legacy. One of the reasons for these lasting disagreements is the metaphorical nature that the Vietnam War has obtained over the years, entangling it with crucial political, military, social and cultural issues that shaped the United States since the 1960s. As Americans continue to debate, interpret, mediate and manipulate the history of that war in search to find lessons and give meaning to the ordeal of Vietnam, always hotly debated and leading to divergent and often contradictory historical analogies.
Problematic as the memories of Vietnam may be, their emotional power has made them impossible to deny. They influenced amongst others literature, from *Dispatches* to *Tree of Smoke*, movies, from *Rambo* to *Forrest Gump*; international relations, as analogies with Iraq and Afghanistan; and as an important issue in domestic political campaigns. “Vietnam” not only influenced practical issues like how to fight a war, but also on more elusive issues of identity and morality.

This conference will provide a platform to discuss the many ways in which the memories of the Vietnam War are constructed, mediated and politicized and how we should perceive its impact. From an interdisciplinary perspective it welcomes topics as diverse as domestic and international politics, military aspects and social issues, but also the Vietnam legacy in film, art, literature and poetry, photography and what we can call ‘memorialization’.

The conference welcomes graduate students in an advanced stage of their Ph.D. and more established scholars. Please submit proposals by email to Beerd Beukenhorst, M.A.: H.B.Beukenhorst@uva.nl. Each submission should include a 500-word proposal of the paper that is to be considered for presentation and a 200-word biographical sketch of the author(s).

The deadline for submitting proposals is **1 April 2010**. Authors will be notified about the status of their proposal no later than 1 May 2010. The lingua franca of the conference is English.

Along with the presentation of accepted papers, the conference will feature speakers representing a variety of aspects of the Vietnam War legacy.

For more information, please contact prof. dr. Ruud Janssens (R.V.A.Janssens@uva.nl) or Beerd Beukenhorst, MA (H.B.Beukenhorst@uva.nl)

**BAAS Annual Conference 2010**

University of East Anglia, April 8-11 2010

The fifty-fifth British Association for American Studies Conference will be held at the School of American Studies, University of East Anglia from 8-11 April 2010. There is no overarching theme for the conference, and papers and panel proposals are welcomed on any subject related to the United States of America and early America. The conference will feature papers from a wide range of disciplines and play host to an international collection of scholars from across the spectrum of the research community, from postgraduates to senior scholars. Interdisciplinarity is very welcome, and we are also happy to accept proposals for roundtable discussions, poster sessions, or other innovative panel ideas that we can incorporate into the conference schedule.

For further information about the conference please visit http://www.uea.ac.uk/ams/baas2010
BEURZEN

Smithsonian American Art Fellowship 2010-2011

The Smithsonian American Art Museum and its Renwick Gallery invite applications for research fellowships in art and visual culture of the United States. Fellowships are residential and support full-time independent and dissertation research. A variety of research fellowships are offered, including a number of named fellowships:

- The Terra Foundation for American Art Fellowships;
- The Douglass Foundation Fellowship in American Art;
- The Patricia and Philip Frost Fellowship;
- The James Renwick Fellowship in American Craft;
- The Sara Roby Fellowship in Twentieth-Century American Realism;
- The Joshua C. Taylor Fellowship;
- The Wyeth Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship.

Qualifications and selection

Predoctoral applications must have completed coursework and preliminary examinations for the doctoral degree, and must be engaged in dissertation research. Postdoctoral fellowships are available to support specific research projects by scholars who hold the doctoral degree or equivalent. Senior fellowships are intended for scholars with a distinguished publication record who have held the doctoral degree for more than seven years or who possess an equivalent record of professional accomplishment at the time of application.

Applications will be evaluated based on the quality of the proposed research project, and on the applicants’ academic standing, scholarly qualifications, and experience. The project’s compatibility with the Museum’s collections, facilities, staff, and programs will also be considered. A committee of curators and historians will review the applications.

The stipend for a one-year predoctoral fellowship is $27,000 plus research and travel allowances. The stipend for a one-year postdoctoral fellowship is $42,000 plus research and travel allowances. The standard term of residency for fellowships is twelve months, but shorter terms will be considered; stipends are prorated for periods of less than twelve months. All applicants are encouraged to discuss their research proposals with potential Smithsonian advisors before submitting applications. For research consultation, contact: Dr. Cynthia Mills at millsc@si.edu or Dr. Eleanor Harvey at harveye@si.edu.

For applications or general information call the American Art Fellowship Office at +1 202 633 8353 or e-mail AmericanArtFellowships@si.edu. The application is also available online at AmericanArt.si.edu/fellowships. Only one application is necessary; applicants will automatically be considered in all relevant award categories. Applicants interested in a specific named fellowship are encouraged to provide a statement that indicates how their research topic is particularly suited to that award.

For other Smithsonian opportunities call the Smithsonian Office of Fellowships at +1 202 633 7070 or e-mail siofg@si.edu.

15 January 2010 is the application deadline for fellowships to begin on or after 1 June 2010.
TERRA Foundation for American Art Europe

For the tenth consecutive year, the Terra Foundation for American Art is calling for candidates for its Terra Summer Residency in Giverny, France.

This eight-week residency program is funded by the foundation to provide artists and scholars with an opportunity for independent study and creation within a rich interdisciplinary setting. It serves both to further the knowledge of American art and to foster an intellectual network of artists and academics from the United States and Europe.

Located only an hour from Paris in the historic village of Giverny, the residency is offered to artists who have completed their studies at the masters level and doctoral students engaged in research on American art.

In 2010, ten fellows will be granted a residency from 14 June to 8 August with core activities beginning on 18 June. Throughout the program, senior artists and art historians will be present to mentor fellows and pursue their own work. Fellows will attend lectures and seminars, work directly with professional artists and scholars and, of course, focus on their own research and study.

The recipients selected for this year’s residency program will be offered lodging and work space at the foundation premises in Giverny and will be awarded a stipend of $5,000. Artists will receive an additional $200 for the purchase of materials.

In order to attract candidates of the highest caliber, the program requires that each applicant be nominated by a professor or faculty head. In keeping with the foundation’s mission, eligible candidates should be well into the dissertation writing process with research subject that contains a significant American art component, or that examines artistic exchange between America and Europe.

A candidate who has already been recommended in a previous year may be re-nominated. As the international selection committee changes each year, such repeat nominations are encouraged.

Applications are due on 15 January 2010 and selection will be announced in March 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Miranda Fontaine, administrative coordinator for the program in Giverny, at fontaine@terraamericanart.eu. Applicants should direct all inquiries to trs@terraamericanart.org.

Graduate School of North American Studies

The Graduate School of North American Studies invites applications for 11 Doctoral Grants

The Graduate School of the John F. Kennedy-Institute for North American Studies invites applications for the academic year 2010/2011. Six academic disciplines in the humanities and social sciences collaborate in offering a structured curriculum. The doctoral program is interdisciplinary in its approach and focuses on those social transformations impacting the United States and Canada at the beginning of the 21st century. Areas of emphasis include domestic and foreign policy, economic development, ethnic identity and relations, as well as
recent transformations in media, art, literature, culture, and religion. The language of instruction is English.

Applicants interested in pursuing a doctorate with an emphasis in North American Studies must have a completed degree (M.A. or the equivalent) with above average marks in one of the following disciplines: American Cultural Studies, American Literature, History, Political Science, Sociology and Economics. Grants are awarded for a maximum of three years. Continued funding past the first year is based upon a positive annual evaluation of progress.

Scholarships amount to ca. €1,500 per month.

It is also possible to apply for admission to the program independently from applying for a stipend. Guest students are welcome to stay for a period of up to one year. Guest students must be self-supporting.

All application materials (completed application form, statement of purpose of 3 pages, outline of dissertation project of 8-10 pages, curriculum vitae, two recent letters of reference, copies of earned degrees, proof of language skills, and a writing sample) must be received by 31 January 2010 at the following address:

Freie Universität Berlin
Graduate School of North American Studies
Dr. Katja Mertin, Managing Director
Lansstrasse 5-9
14195 Berlin, Germany

For further information on application requirements and the graduate program, and for the application form, please see www.gsnas.fu-berlin.de. Please address all inquiries to our Program Assistant: office@gsnas.fu-berlin.de.

UC Summer School 2010

Gedurende de zomermaanden biedt de Universiteit van Californië de mogelijkheid om colleges te volgen op drie van haar campussen, Berkeley, Los Angeles en San Diego. De drie behoren tot de zeven beste National Public Universities in de Verenigde Staten. De zomer is de enige tijd dat de universiteit haar deuren opent voor niet-reguliere studenten. Deze periode biedt studenten dan ook een uitgelezen kans om college te volgen bij gerenommeerde professoren.

Inschrijven voor de Universiteit van Californië is mogelijk via het UC International Registration Center in Maastricht. Voor informatie over cursuskeuze, huisvesting en vragen over studentenvisa bezoek de website van (L)UC International Registration Center, www.lucprograms.com.
Access to Congressional Hearings

Thanks to a grant from NWO, Leiden University is acquiring the Congressional Hearings Digital Collection, an electronic archive published by Lexis Nexis. This resource will give users access to all the Congressional hearings and reports that were published from 1824 to 1979. Tens of thousands of volumes that were previously only accessible at the Library of Congress, or a major American research university, can now be read from computer screens in the Netherlands. Moreover, these volumes can be downloaded, saved, and printed out as PDF files. Researchers can also search within the text by key words and phrases. Whatever the field of research—politics, foreign policy, economic development, race relations—this digital archive offers untold riches. In order to encourage the widest possible use of the Congressional Hearings Digital Collection, Leiden University is happy to grant visiting researchers temporary access as guests.

The 9/11 Effect

The 9/11 Effect: Art and Cultural Politics in Post-9/11 Europe is a joint research group of the Institute of Culture and History (ICH) and the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA) of the University of Amsterdam, initiated and coordinated by Marieke de Goede (Associate Professor European Studies) and Jaap Kooijman (Associate Professor Media & Culture and American Studies). The research group brings together scholars from different academic disciplines in the Humanities – including American Studies, Art History, Cultural Analysis, Dutch Literature, English Literature, European Studies, Media Studies, Philosophy, and Political History – to study how the cultural production of 9/11 and the War on Terror effects European debates on national security, national identity, and multiculturalism. Rather than making a rigid distinction between art and culture on the one hand, and politics on the other, the research group recognizes that these realms are intertwined and should be analyzed in connection to each other. The research project’s main premise is to make this connection visible, showing how the representation and visualization of 9/11 and the War on Terror in art and popular culture help to shape European policymaking.

Although much has been written about the cultural impact of 9/11, relative little attention has been paid to the impact of 9/11 in a specific European context. Also the direct connection between 9/11 cultural production and policymaking remains relatively unexamined. Since its founding in 2007, the 9/11 Effect research group attempts to bring together these different realms by organizing a bi-monthly reading group, organizing and/or participating in public lectures, and facilitating international workshops. Moreover, the 9/11 Effect research group actively raises funds for PhD-research on the topic. The group’s first PhD-candidate is Jenifer Chao, who analyzes a range of cultural objects (literature, television series, rap music) in an attempt to identify and assess emerging trends of subversion and resistance that seek to challenge dominant post-9/11 political perceptions, visual representations, and media stereotypes.
The members of the 9/11 Effect research group come together bimonthly to discuss the latest academic writings on 9/11 and other related themes, such as catastrophe, surveillance, Islam, and post-9/11 security imagination. This reading group is open to any research master student, post-doc, and senior academic who wants to discuss the cultural impact of 9/11 and the War on Terror from a multi-disciplinary perspective. For more information, mail Jaap Kooijman at J.W.Kooijman@uva.nl.

**NIEUWE MEDEWERKERS**

**Gabriele Pisarz-Ramirez**

Gabriele Pisarz-Ramirez has taught and researched at various German universities (Leipzig, Free University Berlin, Bielefeld, and Bayreuth) before joining the faculty of American Studies at the University of Groningen in April 2009. She was a Visiting Scholar at UC Berkeley in 1998/1999 and a Visiting Lecturer at Stanford University from January to March 2009. Her doctoral dissertation in the field of translation studies (Leipzig 1991) focused on the reception of Stephen Crane in Germany, and she wrote her Habilitationschrift on post-national discourses in the literature and culture of Chicano/as (Leipzig 2004).

Her current research interests are in the fields of inter-American studies, Latino and African American studies, early American studies, and 19th century popular culture studies. In 2008 she organized an international conference on *Latino/a Images for the 21st Century: Interethnic relations and the Politics of Representation in the United States* at the University of Bielefeld. Currently she is working on a book project about postrevolutionary American identity formation in a transnational context.

Gabriele currently teaches two first-year BA courses, “Culture, Arts, and Media” (an introduction to key theories of popular culture studies) and “Modern American Culture” (an exploration of influential movements, texts, and authors from the late nineteenth to the twenty-first century). In addition, she co-teaches a third-year B.A. research seminar on “Mobility, Migration, Transculturation” (which looks at issues of cosmopolitanism, social mobility, migrant workers, and human rights in the Americas from the nineteenth century till today), and an M.A. seminar on “African American Literature from Oral Tradition to Postmodernism.”
Sara Polak started teaching American Studies at the University of Amsterdam a year ago, on a very temporary basis. Since the beginning of this academic year arrangements have become more permanent. She teaches the Survey Course in American History and a seminar on (depictions of) Franklin D. Roosevelt.

After studying maths for one year, and then English literature in Cambridge (UK) for three years, Sara did a research master at the UvA in Literary Studies, with a focus on American literature and history. Her M.A. thesis was on humor and authenticity in Elizabeth Bishop’s poetry and prose.

Sara has drifted towards American history since, and has now embarked on a Ph.D. project, supervised by Prof. dr. Ruud Janssens, studying how Franklin D. Roosevelt is portrayed in recent (post-1997) media expressions, such as films, novels, documentaries, monuments and history books, and trying to figure out to what extent FDR himself has exerted an influence on his future image.

With her business partner and friend Tessa Gerson, Sara also writes life stories of (elderly) people, based on series of interviews. This usually leads to a book, printed for a small circle of family and friends (www.destijds.nl). In her spare time Sara also plans and coordinates funerals.

**LEZINGEN**

**CIE Lectures ‘Dutch Manhattan 1609 - 2009’ - Lloyd Hotel**

*In cooperation with: Nieuw Amsterdam Publishers & Boom Publishers*

This fall the Centre for International Heritage Activities celebrates the Henry Hudson Year with lectures and live music in the Lloyd Hotel with a clear focus on Dutch Manhattan in the seventeenth century. Organized in cooperation with the Amsterdam Centre for the Study of the Golden Age. Speakers are a.o. Michiel van Groesen (UvA), Martine Gosselink (Rijksmuseum) and Jaap Jacobs (independent scholar). Music a.o.: Karin Giphart (singersongwriter)

In 1609, Henry Hudson, an Englishman in the service of the Dutch, arrived in New York Bay. His ‘discovery’ was the start of a special relationship between The Netherlands and the city of New York that continues to this day. Specialists from various academic and cultural fields will provide fresh insights into different aspects of the short-lived Dutch colony in the New World.
The lectures and musical performances will take place in the restaurant of the beautiful Lloyd Hotel as part of their Monday Night program. *Lloyd Time on Mondays* is partly an ad hoc program. This means that the lectures can be complemented with international guest speakers, which will give the evenings a dynamic character.

**Program**

**Monday, November 9:** *Martine Gosselink* (Rijksmuseum), ‘The Dutch origins of Manhattan.’

(Book sell: ‘New York - Nieuw Amsterdam’ - Nieuw Amsterdam Publishers, 2009)

**Monday, November 16:** *Frans Blom* (University of Amsterdam), ‘Selling Manhattan: Dutch Anglo picturing of New Netherland and New York.’

Music: *Karin Giphart* (singer-songwriter)

**Location:** Lloyd Hotel - Oostelijke Handelskade 34, Amsterdam  
**Admission:** free  
**Time:** 20:00  
**Language:** English  
**Register**  
We would kindly request you to register for the lectures at: f.coals@heritage-activities.nl or by phone +31 (0)71 5168890 and select the lectures and dates which you would like to attend.

For more information please visit the website: http://www.heritage-activities.nl

**“Spirit of Exploration”**

Dear NY400-friend,

On Dutch American Heritage Day, **Monday the 16th of November** we will conclude the NY400 year with a dinner and discussion on the **“Spirit of Exploration”** at Space Expo in Noordwijk.

Together with the Stanford Club and the Harvard Business School Club of the Netherlands, the Ivy Club, the American Embassy, the European Space Agency and Space Expo we will focus on exploring new frontiers, both in space and society.

Fay Hartog Levin, US Ambassador to the Netherlands, Steven Smith, American Astronaut and Frans Timmermans, Dutch Minister for European Affairs will kick off the discussion with enticing presentations.

**When:** Monday November 16th, starting at 6 PM with drinks.  
**Where:** Space Expo/European Space Agency campus, Noordwijk.  
**How to register:** Please send an e-mail to hbsc@planet.nl and make the payment of 65 euro p.p (for drinks and dinner) to the Harvard Business School account 25.25.29.456 Amsterdam. Indicate your name and the name of a guest, if applicable, in the payment details.
Detailed program
6:00 PM drinks and welcome at the International Space Station exhibit
6:45 PM Fay Hartog Levin, US Ambassador to the Netherlands, opens the evening’s program
7:00 PM Steven Smith American astronaut (Stanford alumnus and NASA International Space Station Program Liaison to the European Space Agency) presents Space Flight! In the Ariane Theater
7:45 PM Walking dinner and networking in the Main Exhibit Hall
8.45 PM Speech and discussion with Frans Timmermans, Dutch Minister for European Affairs, “Exploring the Future” in the Ariane Theater
9.30 PM Dessert and networking in the Main Exhibit Hall
11.00 PM End

This is an event you don’t want to miss! We look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards,

Mr. Eric F. Ch. Niehe
NY400
NY400@minbuza.nl
070-348 5893

Jane Alison - The Sisters Antipodes
3 December 2009

Jane Alison was born in 1961 in Canberra, Australia, and until she was eleven grew up in the Australian and U.S. foreign services. She went to public schools in Washington, D.C., and studied classics at Princeton and Brown universities and creative writing at Columbia. Before writing fiction, she worked for the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Washington City Paper, the Miami New Times, and Tulane University; she has also been a freelance editor and illustrator.

Her first novel, The Love-Artist, was published in 2001 by Farrar, Straus & Giroux and has been translated into seven languages. It was followed by The Marriage of the Sea, a New York Times Notable Book of 2003, and Natives and Exotics, one of 2005’s recommended readings by Alan Cheuse of National Public Radio. Her short fiction and critical writing have appeared in TriQuarterly, Seed, Five Points, The Germanic Review, and elsewhere. She lives in Miami Beach and teaches at the University of Miami and Queens University of Charlotte.

For more information please visit the website of the John Adams Institute, www.john-adams.nl
TENTOONSTELLINGEN

400 jaar Manhattan, Zeeland (her)ontdekt Amerika
Zeeuws maritiem muZEEum, Nieuwendijk 11, Vlissingen
5 september 2009-7 februari 2010

Een tentoonstelling, georganiseerd in het teken van de 400 jaar Hudson vieringen, waarin het panorama van de geschiedenis via Manhatten te zien is. Vanuit Vlissingen zijn 25 speciaal gemaakte doeken verscheept naar Amerika. 25 Amerikaanse kunstenaars van de New Yorkse kunstenaarsgroep Salmangundi Club hebben zich laten inspireren door 400 jaar New Yorkse geschiedenis en een moment gekozen uit deze geschiedenis van Manhattten om te verbeelden op doek. Dit heeft een unieke doorkijk op de geschiedenis opgeleverd. De tentoonstelling is zowel in Vlissingen als New York te zien.

Hollanders aan de Hudson
Westfries Museum, Roode Steen 1, Hoorn
6 september-29 november 2009


Tantillo is een erkend maritiem kunstenaar in de Verenigde Staten. De verbeelding van de kolonie Nieuw Nederland steunt op (kunst)historisch onderzoek. Tantillo werd hierin bij gestaan door de historicus dr. Charles Gehring van het New Netherlands Project. De opzet van het werk van Tantillo is het zo verantwoordelijk mogelijk weergeven van het leven in de Nederlandse kolonie in het begin van de 17 eeuw. Op de schilderijen en tekeningen zijn de forten, boerderijen en nederzettingen te zien die de Nederlanders langs de Hudson rivier hadden gebouwd. Ook scènes uit het dagelijks leven van de kolonisten en de indiaanse bevolking maken deel uit van zijn werk.

John Cassavetes
Filmtheaters in Nederland
17 september 2009-12 mei 2010


**John Cassavetes fototentoonstelling**
Filmmuseum Vondelpark, Amsterdam 18 september-2 december 2009

In het kader van de John Cassavetes retrospectief dat het filmmuseum organiseerde (17 september-4 november), wordt voor het eerst in Nederland het werk van de Amerikaanse fotograaf Sam Shaw en zijn zoon, Larry Shaw, tentoongesteld. Sam Shaw verzorgde de setfotografie bij het merendeel van Cassavetes’ films. Bovendien was Shaw als producent betrokken bij onder andere Husbands, A Woman Under the Influence en Gloria. De tentoonstelling gebruikt als leidraad foto’s die Shaw samen met zijn zoon heeft gemaakt op verschillende sets van Cassavettes-films. Daarnaast zijn er ook een aantal Cassavettesaffiches te zien, die Shaw samen met zijn dochter Edith Shaw Marcus heeft ontworpen.

**United States 1970-1975 – Jacob Holdt**
Kunsthall Rotterdam, Museumpark, Westzeedijk 341 19 september 2009-10 januari 2010

De Kunsthall Rotterdam presenteert ruim tachtig foto’s en een diavoorstelling van de Deense fotograaf Jacob Holdt. Holdt reisde van 1970 tot 1975 door de Verenigde Staten en legde met zijn camera de sociale ongelijkheid bloot. De expositie laat een samenleving zien waarin armoede, angst, eenzaamheid en geweld overheersen. De tentoonstelling exposeert een aantal aangrijpende portretten van mensen die aan de onderkant van de maatschappij leven. Het werk van Holdt is nog steeds actueel, zeker nu de Amerikaanse samenleving geteisterd wordt door hoge werkeloosheid en gebrek aan betaalbare medische zorg.

The Family and the Land – Sally Mann
Fotomuseum Den Haag, Stadhouderslaan 43
24 september 2009-10 januari 2010

Alles aan de foto’s van Sally Mann (Lexington, VA 1951) ademt sfeer; of het nu de portretten van haar opgroeiende kinderen zijn, de natuur om haar heen of de dood en vergankelijkheid die ze op bijzondere wijze in beeld brengt. Door het gebruik van antieke camera’s en 19e-eeuwse fotografische processen krijgt haar werk een bijna tastbare authenticiteit. Haar unieke kijk op de wereld en de wijze waarop ze die weet te verbeelden, hebben haar één van de belangrijkste fotografen van de Verenigde Staten gemaakt. In het Fotomuseum Den Haag zijn dit najaar de vijf bekendste series van deze eigenwillige fotografe te zien, waarin haar twee grote liefdes centraal staan: The Family and the Land.


Van opgroeiende kinderen, de natuur en het aanwezige verleden, verlegt Sally Mann in de serie What Remains (2000-2004) haar focus naar dood en vergankelijkheid. Wanneer een voortvluchtige man zelfmoord pleegt op haar erf, raakt ze gefascineerd door het eeuwige proces waarin de natuur alles weer tot zich neemt en in normale staat terugbrengt. Ze graaf haar overleden windhond op om te fotograferen wat er nog van haar over is na 18 maanden onder de grond. Deze fascinatie zet haar ertoe nog een stap verder te gaan om dit onomkeerbare proces vast te leggen: in de tuin van een forensisch instituut fotografeert ze de lijken die tussen de bomen, planten en struiken liggen te wachten tot ze in de juiste staat van ontbinding zijn voor de onderzoeken van het instituut. De serie Faces uit 2004 is een hoopvolle afsluiting na What Remains, waarmee Mann de cirkel weer rond maakt: gebruikmakend van het Collodionprocédé portretteert ze haar inmiddels volwassen kinderen. Ook in deze serie is de waarde van haar antieke technieken evident: het maakt de beelden authentiek op een manier die met de computer nooit te bereiken is. En dat voel je meteen bij het zien van haar werk.

http://www.gagosian.com/artists/sally-man
De Amerikaanse moderne schilderkunst uit het begin van de twintigste eeuw is in Europa voornamelijk bekend vanwege het oeuvre van één kunstenaar: Edward Hopper (1882-1967). Hoppers oeuvre kenmerkt zich door een verraderlijke kalmte in lege straten en landschappen, en door eenzame figuren in een stedelijke omgeving. Zijn schilderijen hebben hun stempel gedrukt op ons beeld van Amerika.


AMS*NYC*AMS – An Artistic Look at a 400 Year Affair
ABC Treehouse, Voetboogstraat 11, Amsterdam
4 oktober-29 november 2009

In 1609 Henry Hudson, in service to the Dutch East Indies Company, set out to find the Northwest Passage to India…and instead found himself sailing up the river later given his name. Beginning with the Dutch settlement on the island of Manhattan, and persevering through revolutions, world wars, and social upheavals on both sides of the Atlantic, the United States and the Netherlands have since enjoyed 400 years of friendship, trade, and shared values.

With AMS*NYC*AMS, the American Book Center invites Dutch and American artists to take an look at this unique anniversary. Critical, loving, humorous, tolerant or “pittig”: these artists’ work offer us a chance to reflect on the many layers of a long and enduring relationship. During the two months the exhibition is in residence at the ABC Treehouse, AMS*NYC*AMS will also celebrate this relationship with dialogue and special events.

For more information: www.treehouse.abc.nl
Crossing Border
www.crossingborder.nl
Toneelkwartier, Den Haag
19-21 november 2009

Sinds de eerste editie in 1993 wordt gezocht naar unieke combinaties van gesproken woord met muziek, film en beeldende kunst. Naast grote namen uit de internationale literatuur- en muziekwereld wordt er veel aandacht gegeven aan (nu nog) onbekende namen. De nadruk wordt gelegd op het tonen van nieuwe ontwikkelingen binnen de literatuur en muziek en op de relatie met andere kunstdisciplines.
In november 2009 vindt de zeventiende editie plaats van het festival dat zich de afgelopen jaren heeft ontwikkeld tot een van de belangrijkste internationale festivals op het gebied van literatuur en muziek in Europa. Het festival speelt zich tegelijkertijd op meerdere podia af, het publiek stelt zijn eigen programma samen. Ook de komende editie belooft weer een groot aantal optredens die ontroeren, raken, verleiden, verstillen, irriteren en betoveren.

International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam
www.idfa.nl
19-29 november 2009

Eind november vindt het grootste documentaire festival ter wereld plaats op en rondom het Rembrandtplein in Amsterdam. Tien dagen lang worden de nieuwste internationale documentaires vertoond, krijgt u uitgebreid gelegenheid om met de veelal aanwezige makers na te praten en worden iedere avond feesten georganiseerd in het festivalcentrum Escape.

IDFA vertoont documentaires waarin de meest uiteenlopende verhalen op verschillende manieren in beeld gebracht zijn. Verhalen van en over gewone en opmerkelijke mensen, die elk op hun eigen wijze hun kijk geven op de wereld waarin we leven. Of het nu de overpeinzingen zijn van een Mormoonse vrouw over haar polygame huwelijk, het levensverhaal van een spion tijdens de Koude Oorlog, of de zoektocht van ouders naar een genezing voor hun autistische kind, de documentaires hebben één ding gemeen: het zijn allemaal verhalen uit en over de werkelijkheid.
Het International Film Festival Rotterdam maakt jaarlijks een eigenzinnige en wereldwijd hoog aangeschreven selectie uit de recente, nieuwe films en filmgerelateerde beeldende kunst. Speelfilms, documentaires, korte films, tentoonstellingen en performances uit alle werelddelen zijn voor het eerst (en in veel gevallen eenmalig) te zien in Nederland. Als “venster op de wereld” biedt het IFFR bezoekers de unieke kans gedurende twaalf festivaldagen een grote verscheidenheid aan actuele verhalen en gebeurtenissen te bekijken. Het festival kiest daarbij voor jong en opkomend filmtalent, voor de filmauteurs met een onafhankelijke en vernieuwende signatuur en voor filmmakers of kunstenaars die innovatief of experimenteel grenzen verkennen en overschrijden.

Gedurende twaalf festivaldagen presenteren honderden filmmakers en kunstenaars op 18 festivallocaties met 27 bioscoopzalen in het centrum van Rotterdam hun werk aan een groot festivalpubliek en ongeveer 3.000 internationale festivalgasten. De 39ste editie van het International Film Festival Rotterdam vindt plaats van woensdag 27 januari tot en met zondag 7 februari 2010. In het festival zijn evenementen opgenomen als de CineMart (de grootste co-productiemarkt voor filmprojecten ter wereld), de Robeco Filmdag, de Volkskrantdag, VPRO-dagen, de Opening en Closing Nights, de Awards Night en de dagelijkse talkshows.

New York, I Love You
From the producers of PARIS JE T'AIME

every moment another story begins

29 OKTOBER IN DE BIOSCOOP

Kijk voor meer informatie op www.paradisofilms.nl
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COLOFON NASA-Nieuwsbrief

Redactie/vormgeving:
Martine Kaas
Hans Krabbendam
Marja Roholl

Redactie-adres:
Roosevelt Study Center
Postbus 6001
4330 LA Middelburg
tel. 0118-631590 fax 0118-631593
e-mail: rsc@zeeland.nl

Adressen Dagelijks Bestuur:
A. Fairclough, voorzitter
Universiteit Leiden
Vakgroep Algemene Geschiedenis
Postbus 9515
2000 RA Leiden
tel. 071-527 2706
e-mail: a.fairclough@let.leidenuniv.nl

D. Oostdijk, secretaris
Engelse Taal en Cultuur
Vrije Universiteit
De Boelelaan 1105
1081 HV Amsterdam
e-mail: dm.oostdijk@let.vu.nl

G. Scott-Smith, penningmeester
Roosevelt Study Center
Postbus 6001
4330 LA Middelburg
tel. 0118-631590 fax 0118-631593
e-mail: g.scott-smith@zeeland.nl

NASA-lidmaatschap per jaar:
€ 25 (€ 12,50 voor studenten)
postgiro 2976924
t.n.v. NASA te Middelburg

Deadline volgende nummer:
15 februari 2010

Website:
http://www.netherlands-america.nl