English-Language Works by JAAS Members 1997

The following citations and abstracts introduce recent publications and dissertations, written in English by the members of the Japanese Association for American Studies, on topics related to American Studies. The works are listed in the order of articles in journals, articles in books, books, and dissertations.

ARTICLES IN JOURNALS


Twain called Joan of Arc the “marvelous Child” in his Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc (1896). She became for him an ideal image of childhood innocence, and of female heroism. This essay examines the symbolic significance of “the Riddle of the Ages” for the 19th century American author and for our time; that she may well be an ideal androgyne.


The Mormon Church, now prosperous in the capitalistic world, has tried twice to organize its members under communistic principles. The first United Order, with emphasis on equal division of property, was made by Joseph Smith, the church founder, and the second by Brigham Young, his successor. Young, more concerned about Utah’s economic independence from surrounding American capitalism, tried to promote home industry and self-sufficiency just after the first transcontinental railroad was completed. The dissolution of the second United Order thus signified the Church’s assimilation into America’s mainstream religious landscape.

This paper explores the ideology of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Hiratsuka Raicho, two distinguished feminists in the U.S. and Japan. In the paper, I focused on the following themes, since they seemed basic to their feminism: the idea of woman suffrage, the motherhood ideology, love and marriage, and sexuality and birth control.


This paper explores how the United States and Japan transformed their China policies during World War II. It concentrates on the process of the American and Japanese abolition of their unequal treaties with China in 1943, in particular focusing on analyzing the motives of the two countries in the process. By re-examining the complexity of international relations in wartime, we can see that the renouncement of extraterritoriality not only marked a historic turning point in America’s China policy, but also had a great impact on the transformation of East Asian politics during World War II.


This article examines the careers of four philanthropic women, namely, Iwanaga Maki, Uryu Iwa, Hayashi Utako, and Sawada Miki. It explores how their individualistic and non-conformist values led them to go beyond the traditional roles assigned to their gender and prompted them to create innovative philanthropic institutions in modern Japan.


The paper argues that Emerson was aiming at writing a new “Bible.” He often shows a kind of biblical framework of his own in his discourses: Genesis and eschaton. Moreover, the very content of his discourses assumes a biblical character: doctrine of God, Christology, eschatology, soteriology, theodicy, and a new Weltanschauung. Seen from this viewpoint, his work would probably become much more understandable.


The essay examines Philippine-U.S. relations regarding the coconut oil tax fund known as a “windfall” revenue during the prewar years of the Philippine Commonwealth, which was established in 1935 as an autonomous government preparing for full independence in 1946, but which ironically became fiscally more dependent on the United States as a result of the “windfall” revenues.

Originally the presidential lecture at the annual conference of the Japanese Association for American Studies in 1996. After briefly reviewing the history of American historical studies in Japan, this article explains the relation of the rise of the studies of American labor history in Japan to the increase of the studies of American immigrant history.


This paper is an attempt to examine how historians in the past century have interpreted African American desires for land, and to elicit its ideological implications, especially focusing on lowcountry South Carolina.


This paper examines Ernest Gaines’ notion of African American manhood by analyzing the African American male characters (Grant, Jefferson, and Reverend Ambrose) and their relationships in *A Lesson before Dying*. Gaines emphasizes the negative elements in the African American community which prevent its male members from establishing a viable brotherhood and manhood.


Chronologically examining the political struggle over the allocation of water in Southern California, this paper challenges the notion that Los Angeles dominated the surrounding communities. This study illustrates the dynamics of metropolitan politics where smaller communities have sought to maintain their local autonomy by taking advantage of alternative water supplies.


This article is a revised version of the paper read at the Literature Section of the 1997 Kyoto American Studies Summer Seminar held at Ritsumeikan University. The article, focusing its exploration on literary texts by Chinese and Japanese American writers, delineates the evolution of Asian American identity formed or transformed in search of the strategies for survival against the American racism brought on by the apparatus of immigration laws and policies.

_No-No Boy_ connotes another story of No-No Boy’s mother, an issei woman who suffers life-long hardships as a picture bride, wife, laborer, and mother of two sons. Yet she keeps silence in her struggle against mental contradictions, and ultimately commits suicide. This paper is a re-reading of Okada’s novel with particular emphasis on women’s experiences and perspectives.


The three stories narrated by three nisei women in prewar, wartime, and postwar societies in Hisaye Yamamoto’s works are examined. Each story illustrates the imprisonment of human psyches that need to overcome the protagonist’s private agony and public difficulties through creative activities in an internal poetic space.


This essay introduces Japanese nursery songs composed by children who nursed babies as work in a form of slavery. The songs express the nursemaid’s sadness, loneliness and despair. She describes her hardships and growing ill will toward the baby. She warns her master to treat her well or else she will mistreat the baby. She often thinks of her lonely death, yet she finds joy in singing and saves herself. The nursemaid songs are examples of voices from oppressed people in Japan.


William Faulkner described many characters and their backgrounds in his novels based on his native land, northern Mississippi. This paper tries to make clear the significance of landscape settings in his novels. By examining his setting we can know his world more deeply. This study is based on the author’s field investigation.


William Faulkner is regarded as a member of the Lost Generation writers. As American professors often point out, however, he does not belong to the Paris Group of Gertrude Stein. Surely he went on his own way as a Southern author. However, we can identify Faulkner as a L.G.writer especially in his early novels.

At the time of Twain’s 1866 visit, Hawaii was a constitutional monarchy, but several foreign-born residents were attempting to control the government. Influenced by pro-American opposition, Twain viciously attacked the Minister of Finance, Charles Coffin Harris, and the Anglican Bishop of Honolulu, Thomas Nettleship Staley. This article investigates the abuse of power and its effect on the writer.


Lincoln emancipated the slaves in 1863 but the oppression of black people has never stopped. This article proposes the thesis that the Welfare System is a modern projection of hereditary disempowerment which creates a permanent underclass, and thereby perpetuates the specter of slavery.

**ARTICLES IN BOOKS**


Under the U.S.-Japan Intellectual Interchange Program, Eleanor Roosevelt visited Japan. While she had expected to talk on women’s status and rights, she found the rearmament of Japan and the presence of American bases the overriding concern of Japanese women. The Cold War, the primary reason for the inauguration of the program, hampered mutual understanding between her and the Japanese.


Direct foreign investment in Canada by *sogo shosha* represented a significant part of the overall Japanese DFI until the late 1970’s. With the new developments in the 1980s and 1990s, especially after the implementation of NAFTA, the trading companies have actively participated in joint ventures in the market-oriented, auto-related sector with Japanese manufacturers, while retaining their established business.

This study focuses on Charles Burton Fah of the Rockefeller Foundation, assessing his contributions to the development of a democratic press, the reformation of university instruction, and in fostering creative literature. The author suggests that postwar philanthropy conducted in Japan was initiated in the ironic context of an occupying force whose responsibility was to establish democratic liberties.


This paper examines how the concept of citizenship has been challenged in relation to the issue of immigration in the United States and what impact the passages of the new welfare law and the immigration law in 1996 have had on issues surrounding immigration and citizenship.


This is the first bibliographical and analytical introduction of Veblen studies in Japan, 1905–1995. The history of Veblen studies in Japan is divided into two periods. The first period, 1920s–1945, is the introductory stage, and the second period, 1945–1995, is the one of full-scale studies. The latter period is further subdivided into four stages.


*The Iceman Cometh* is a sequel to *Days Without End*, in spite of surface differences. Eugene O’Neill seems to have felt he had handled various issues inadequately in the earlier play and addressed the same issues anew, during the so-called period of hibernation in which he had no new plays produced, to face himself more honestly.


William Faulkner visited Japan in August, 1955. He spent eleven days in Nagano to attend the Summer Seminar of American Literature. This essay examines the relation between Faulkner and Nagano (Japan) as well as its meaning.
BOOKS


This is the first book on the history of Japanese theology written by Japanese theologians: Akio Dohi, Toshio Sato, Seiichi Yagi, and Masaya Odagaki. The work clarifies the tumultuous history of Japanese Christianity and describes the context, methodology, and goals shaping Japanese theology today.

DISSERTAIONS


In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Brown* rulings, Mississippi became the most notable leader in the South’s official “massive resistance” movement. Resurrecting a theory of states’ rights constitutionalism in defense of the state’s “segregated way of life,” Mississippi created the State Sovereignty Commission in March 1956 as its executive agency. This dissertation illuminates the history of the state agency during America’s civil rights years.


This dissertation aims at elucidating the significance of Hawthorne’s characters as spiritual orphans generated by the cultural and religious crisis in nineteenth-century America. Besides mirroring Hawthorne’s personal orphan consciousness, these spiritual orphans, who have lost sight of their heavenly father, faithfully reflect people’s religious anxiety and sense of uprootedness in the dawn of modern America.


This work analyses the impact of the radical socioeconomic changes that occurred in Quebec and New England on the process of French Canadians’ movement to, and settlement in, Lowell in the early twentieth century. This study also seeks to shed light on the gender relations within the immigrant families. To achieve these objectives, my research methodology combines assessment of nominative records and qualitative sources.

The dissertation examines the roles of American women in the development of America’s gendered discourse about Japan and China between the 1870s and WWII in three areas of cultural production: material culture, literature, and anthropology. It demonstrates that American women played pivotal roles in inscribing gendered meanings to Asia in the American mind. It further argues that their participation in Orientalist discourse offered many American women an effective avenue through which to gain authority and agency which were denied to them in other realms of sociopolitical life.