English-Language Works by JAAS Members
1999

The following citations and abstracts introduce recent publications and disser-
tations, written in English by the members of the Japanese Association for
American Studies, on topics related to American Studies. The works are list-
ed in the order of articles in journals, articles in books, books, and disserta-
tions.

ARTICLES IN JOURNALS

Fujita, Hideki. “Rape and the ‘Good-Neighbor Policy’: Sexual Politics in
Tennessee Williams’s 27 Wagons Full of Cotton.” Journal of the Faculty of
Humanities (Toyama University) 31 (1999): 231–37.

In Williams’s 27 Wagons Full of Cotton, two male characters repeatedly mention the
political term “good-neighbor policy” in relation to the act of rape in which they par-
ticipate. The conjunction of rape with such a policy suggests that Williams presents
this one-act play as an illustration of sexual politics.

Does the Sound Really Want to Say?” Bulletin of Tokyo Junshin Women’s

After reviewing allegorical readings of The Conversation made from the viewpoints of
political conspiracy and totalitarianism of surveillance and another allegorical reading
made in the context of self-reflexivity in the motion picture industry, this article uses a
constructionist approach to examine the cultural representations and signifying prac-
tices of and in the film.

Miyao, Daisuke. “Picturing Japaneseness: Monumental Style, National Iden-
A review of Darrell William Davis’ book on the history of Japanese cinema. This review article attempts to contextualize Davis’ work in the American historiography of Japanese cinema.


The article examines the philosophical theology of Jonathan Edwards, the quintessential Puritan of eighteenth-century America, and finds it meaningful to the contemporary discussion on ecumenism and interfaith dialogues. It also responds to some of the questions raised by reviewers of the book the author wrote four years ago.


A theoretical perspective understanding the material-discursive overdetermination of the body enables us to examine modes of human agency in handling one’s own body in the colonial system. This essay particularly looks at the agency of colonized bodies described in two Asian women’s autobiographical texts: Joy Kogawa’s Obasan (1981) and Theresa Hak Kyung Cha’s Dictée (1982).


In the history of temperance advocacy, excessive drinking had always been taboo. But reformers in the late 19th century came to view saloons as venues for breaking taboos because they were linked to gambling, prostitution, and political corruption. This article discusses the changing meaning of taboo while focusing on the social background of this transformation.


This article discusses the often overlooked neutralization concept in the postwar plans for a unified Korea in NSC 81/1, approved by President Truman on Sept. 11, 1950, for UN crossing of the 38th parallel and marching north during the Korean War. The article suggests that the concept had dual purposes. One is neutralization for the long-term purpose of guaranteeing security of postwar Korea. The other is a short-term purpose as a wartime diplomatic tactic to prevent Soviet and Chinese intervention.

Shibayama, Futoshi. “Japan, An Ally of What Kind in the U.S.-Japanese Military Relations?: The Negotiations Surrounding the Administrative Agree-

This article argues that the Administrative Agreement to Implement the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty in 1952 virtually determined Japan’s status in the hierarchy of American allies: the Defense Department’s view of treating Japan as a ‘lower-class’ ally than NATO members prevailed over the Far East Command’s reactionary view of maintaining as many occupational privileges and rights as possible, as well as the State Department’s view of regarding Japan as a ‘high-class ally’ comparable to Britain, allowing Japan to be equipped with atomic weapons.


This article describes how the U.S. dictated the process of Japanese rearmament from constabulary to a real army between September 1951 and August 1952. Most significantly the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff approved the plan of developing the Japanese armed forces as balanced forces, in spite of a strong emphasis on ground forces in the initial phase. However, according to their plan, the Japanese forces were in nature supplementary to the U.S. forces in defending Japan, so that the Japanese forces possessed neither offensive capabilities nor independent operational capabilities.


This article examines the white-minority relationship portrayed through advertising in approaching the study of racial stereotypes. It discusses the decoded signifiers and the signifieds contained within the advertisements under examination. It also presents statistical analyses and classifications concerning minority roles, types of white-minority relationships, types of products, and facial expressions.


This is the first short introduction written in English of American Institutional Economics studies in Japan, 1905–1998. It discusses mainly Old Institutional Economics studies including Veblen, Mitchell, Commons, J.M. Clark and others, and briefly deals with more recent studies from the 1990’s.

Focusing on the nature of the Indian response, this article explores how the work of the Christian mission shaped the early Dakota-white relations, which ultimately collapsed in the Indian uprising of 1862. Although government and missionary interests were not always identical, the mission became the locus of cultural and political conflicts.


William Faulkner, a Deep Southerner, and Henry David Thoreau, a New Englander, both loved nature a great deal and deeply thought over man through nature. This article is a comparative study on their views on nature and the relation between nature and man.


This article probes into the texture of the Depression era of the 1930s in which Reginald Marsh produced most of his Bowery images. The article argues that Marsh’s acute vision of the down and out developed not in a vacuum, but in close touch with the social concerns of the thirties.


Thorstein Veblen remains one of the most perplexing social commentators of the 20th century, and The Theory of the Leisure Class (1899) endures as his unique contribution to economic thought in an age of growing excess. Reading Veblen, however, can be a painful experience for his maze-like prose and convoluted theories masterfully satirize American society. This article helps unlock the mysteries of Veblen’s satire that hoodwinked his contemporaries and fooled scholars for decades.


In 1866 Mark Twain scooped the newspaper world with his account of the amazing survival of fifteen men from the U.S.S. Hornet. The worldwide exposure of this publication came to represent an epic event in Twain’s life, but as the author’s reputation grew so did his memories of this story. This article culls fiction from fact and reveals how Twain’s creative imagination processed information for future use.
ARTICLES IN BOOKS


This is a study of the functioning of shared subjective geographies in the social construction of normative history. Analyzing the use of geographical images in discussions of revolution, secession and the nation in *The Atlantic Monthly*, 1880–1884, it shows how the text’s assumptions about ‘essential nature’ justify its different assessments of two American wars.


An essay on the author’s own academic career and works, tracing the initial research on the American Revolution through the works on the US-Japan peace-making to the current research on the contemporary U.S. politics and diplomacy.


The seemingly fragmentary structure of *Cape Cod* might be said to be a strategically organized structure, an achievement of Thoreau’s design expressing his later sophisticated confrontation with nature history and American landscape. Focusing on wreck, wreckage, and wrecker, this article analyses the spreading shores of *Cape Cod* with its inhuman “human house” and many wrecked birds in comparison with Walden’s circular shore and hut as a cosmic and crystal representation of self.


Religious conservatives, who have primarily focused on domestic issues, are turning anew to American foreign policy. In order to illustrate new aspects of the religious right activities, the article deals with 1) Partial Birth Abortion Act and Religious Freedom Amendment as domestic issues, and 2) Freedom from Religious Persecution Act and funding for the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations which have been involved in abortion controversies as foreign affairs issues.


In this essay, firstly, I explain how I reached my current research topic, “Antimodernism and the Archetype”; and secondly, by taking up Winslow Homer (1836–1910), a representative painter of romantic realism, I show an example of my interpretation of antimodernism at the turn of the twentieth century, and the role the archetype played in it.


In 1903, after graduating from Sapporo Agricultural College, Arishima Takeo went to the United States. Coming back to Japan, he became one of the leading literary figures in the Taisho era. The paper focuses on Arishima’s activities in the intellectual and social situation of this era and explores an aspect of American influence on the Japanese writer.

**BOOKS**


In this book, early Afro-American novelists from William Wells Brown to Herman Dreer are treated, introducing their careers and analyzing their novels. Most of these writers have been ignored by the mainstream of American literature and even that of black literature.

Focusing on the genre of graduate students’ research papers for courses, this dissertation investigates the nature and constituents of genre, students’ construction of genre knowledge, and roles of culture, peers and professors in students’ construction of genre knowledge. Taking a qualitative case study approach, the study examines writing processes of five American and six Japanese students at an American university. Longitudinal data include interviews, class observations and writing samples.


This dissertation traces the history of alcohol among the Cherokees between the colonial period and Oklahoma statehood in 1907. The focus is on the ways in which the Cherokees incorporated alcohol into their society and utilized it both culturally and strategically. Revealing the complexity of Cherokee drinking, this dissertation presents an alternative framework for the study of Indians and alcohol.


This dissertation is a study of Horace Bushnell’s views of women in terms of family, church, and nation in nineteenth century Christian America. Bushnell tried to realize a Christian America by emphasizing the importance of the natures of men’s “government” of women and women’s “subordination” to men. His views on women were, therefore, patriarchal and hierarchical. In certain circumstances, however, his views on women were egalitarian and nurturing. His views on women were, consequently, complex.


This dissertation intends to investigate the complex field of national narratives that challenges the polarized assumption of the hegemonic minority cultures. The authors I discuss—Tabitha Tenney, Toni Morrison, Harriet Jacobs, and Theresa Hak Kyung Cha—all represent the participation of women, as well as ethnic/racial minorities, in the process of nation-building. Those author’s ambivalent contemplation on American national identity informs their literary form: the anti-quest romance. This subterranean level of the national narrative demonstrates its multiplicity and multivocality.