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


Reexamining the concept of “home” in Phelps’s The Gates Ajar and Alcott’s Little Women, we can reevaluate these two bestsellers conventionally labeled as sentimental and moralistic. Though they were totally different in their aims, the two female writers both express in their novels the ‘women’s power’ which allowed them to transcend the boundaries of the domestic sphere.


Drawing on new perspectives on memory, this paper examines the way in which peace organizations publicly commemorated August 6, also known as Hiroshima Day, on the fifth and tenth anniversaries of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, focusing on the commemorative activities conducted by a religious-pacifist organization, the American Fellowship of Reconciliation.

In John Steinbeck’s “The Snake,” the mysterious woman embodies feminine otherness. The identification of the woman with the snake reflects a traditional cultural positioning of women at the border between culture and nature. Moreover, through the association with Medusa, she takes on the image of the mother as the primal other against which the son becomes an individual subject.


This article analyzes the rhetoric employed by successive administrations in justification of America’s wars during the last hundred years as well as the realities of how American soldiers fought these wars, revealing the discrepancies between the two. In so doing, the author deals with the cases of the Spanish-Cuban-Filipino-American War, the two World Wars, and the Vietnam War.


This essay discusses the relationship between Onoto Watanna’s best-selling novel, The Heart of Hyacinth (1904), and the issue of miscegenation in America at the turn of the 20th century. In particular, this essay shows how explicitly this story criticizes the common American prejudice against inter-racial marriage between an Asian man and a white American woman.


In the late-nineteenth-century Cherokee Nation, Cherokee women fought the final battle against alcohol. This paper examines the ways in which the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union provided a place for Cherokee and American women to work together for the common cause of temperance.


This article sees US foreign policy in the twentieth century through the lens of “liberal, democratic, capitalist” values which seem to have featured in the United States’ attitude toward foreign countries. It also takes a look at the close relationship the US has had throughout the century with Great Britain, with which it has shared not only a language and culture but also a value system.

In a multicultural environment with the crossing of the color-line in progress, the theory of the Gothic as a genre that has inherited the disturbance planted at the time of national birth is now undergoing a great change. In this paper, first considering Poe’s Gothic classics, *Pym* and “The Black Cat” and next comparing “The Fall of the House of Usher” with Faulkner’s *Absalom, Absalom!* I discuss how Poe and Faulkner change the general grammar of the Gothic as a literary mode to accommodate the expression of the repressed.


During the Persian Gulf War, through their news coverage and programming, the major U.S. TV networks aided the U.S. military and government in creating a consensus among Americans in support of the war; this paper reveals the nature, agency and function of the narrative that was constructed to achieve this aim.


The article examines how Yamada’s early work gives cultural explanations for the causes of social injustice as it attributes the perceived absence of resistance among Japanese Americans to the inherited values of their “root” Japanese culture. This culturalist explanation, the article argues, runs the risk of dehistoricizing and depoliticizing the issue of social injustice.


By focusing on representative participants (Rufus Saxton, Edward Philbrick, and William Gannett) in the South Carolina Sea Islands’ land sales during 1863 and 1864, this article articulates northern visions of reconstructing the South. Although well-intentioned, these diverse and ambivalent visions ultimately undermined freed people’s efforts to own land and secure their newly-gained freedom.


In this paper, the author examines the ethnic persistence of the Acadians, a francophone group in New Brunswick, Canada. In southeastern New Brunswick, because endogamy is still dominant, the French language is maintained as their mother tongue in all generations. It is also important for the Acadians that Moncton has developed as a regional city in Maritime Canada. The Acadians maintain their traits and play an important role in the development of New Brunswick.

The Eisenhower administration launched the peaceful penetration of the Soviet Union in the form of East-West exchanges in the late 1950s. Its cultural and ideological offensive played a role in undermining the legitimacy of the Soviet government from within and proved to be decisive in determining the ultimate outcome of the Cold War.


The U.S. Military’s memorandum of December 23, 1949, commonly known as “a masterpiece of understatement,” imposed impossible security requirements relating to a Japanese peace treaty on the State Department. This article clarifies the U.S. military’s internal controversies regarding the requirements among the Far East Command, the Joint Strategic Survey Committee, and the U.S. Army General Staff.


This study reveals the considerable variability in the lives of single wage-earning women of French Canadian descent as they contributed financially to their household economies in early twentieth century Lowell. It challenges a prevailing view of single wage-earning women as a homogeneous group whose members equally shared financial responsibilities toward their parents’ households.


This article sheds light on a complex and gender-specific perspective of French Canadian immigrants’ southward movements by examining several issues of the migratory process including the geographic itineraries, occupational experiences, and migratory networks of French Canadian immigrants in early twentieth-century Lowell, Massachusetts.

This article updates the author’s previous work on Asian American college students at Princeton University with unused interview data and discussion of pedagogical issues. Addressing a U.S. audience, it discusses strategies to broaden student support for Asian American Studies, in particular the need for outreach to non-activist students who mainly associate with Caucasian students in their daily life.


This article is published as one of the six collected for a special symposium issue on Asian American politics. It provides an overview of Asian American political representation in federal, state, and local elective offices, with particular focus on the districts and activities of current and former Asian American members of Congress.


In this paper I examine the way Emily Dickinson incorporated her knowledge of geology, especially that of fossils and volcanoes, gained from school textbooks, principally those written by Edward Hitchcock, and from the magazine *The Atlantic Monthly*, into her poetry. I also show how deeply the knowledge was connected with her own way of life and her poetry.


After the achieving of redress in 1988, Japanese American literature made one visible turnabout—from factualism to fictionalism. By analyzing the four annals of three-generation Japanese American/Canadian women, I conclude that the present focus of the writers is to seek for their distant roots, with which the reconciliation can be feasible only through imaginary discourse.


This article seeks to explore the increasing significance of state mandates as the means for controlling local governments. Focusing on the area of land use control policy, this article shows the conditions needed to facilitate intergovernmental partnership between state and local governments by way of state mandates.

According to Harry Levin, Peter Rugg “... for a while . . . became a quasi-proverbial harbinger of the storm,” and Hawthorne is sure to have read these tales at Bowdoin, where he was a college student from 1821 to 1825. This study inquires into the cause of eternal human wandering, starting from Hawthorne’s reasons for mentioning Peter Rugg as a way of introducing the reader to his novel.


The aim of this research is to recreate the lives of Finnish immigrant women in a booming coal town in the heart of the Rocky Mountains in the early 20th century. Work, family life, and leisure activities are explored through personal interviews and oral history records, highlighting how immigrant women established themselves in a frontier community.

ARTICLES IN BOOKS


Focusing on descriptions and images of volcanoes, earthquakes, and floods in the Atlantic Monthly 1880–84, this is a case study analysis of the rhetorical process through which a geographical interest in distant disasters provides a safe textual framework for the exploration of local social problems and shared areas of immediate cultural or political concern.


In the context of searching for U.S.-Japanese value sharing, this article analyzes what citizens’ empowerment means in the Japanese context. The transformations of the concept of citizenship, local governance, and civil society-level activities, especially those of not-for-profit organizations are discussed, indicating an emerging solid triangular ties among these three elements.

This article examines the use of space in Margaret Walker’s only novel, *Jubilee*. The heroine, Vyry, moves through various kinds of space, from a slave cabin to her own house in an integrated community. Walker uses these spaces as a mirror to reflect Vyry’s mental and psychological growth.


The Canadian federal policy of multiculturalism, a “mosaic-like” society, was almost universally rejected in Québec from its inception. This essay seeks to explore the historical grounds from which emanates Québec’s rejection of multiculturalism. It also discusses the intentions, particularities and consequences of Québec’s own version of cultural pluralism.


This article examines why Asian Americans have not achieved a political representation in U.S. Congress that matches their population level. It argues that the main causes are ethnic diversity within the Asian American population and past discrimination against them, rather than “apolitical” cultural characteristics commonly (and mistakenly) associated with them. It also provides statistical analysis of cosponsorship of a House bill on anti-Asian discrimination by non-Asian members of Congress.


This is a Survey Report on Pacific Area centers around the world, focusing mostly on those at universities. It covers a total of 65 institutions in 20 countries or regions. It found a diversity of interests in Pacific area by comparing various names relating to Pacific Area Studies, such as Asia Pacific or Pacific Rim.
BOOKS


*Life in Riverfront* is a unique case study of a Midwestern middle-sized city that offers a fresh approach to ethnography because it looks at American daily experiences as seen through the eyes of Japanese anthropologists. It gives American readers an opportunity of seeing their own culture through the eyes of a ‘stranger’ and that illuminates the notion of ethnocentrism in a powerful way.


This book examines the perception gap and expression gap between Japan and the U.S. through a comparison of advertisements.


In 1956, two years after the United States Supreme Court outlawed legally imposed racial segregation in public schools, Mississippi created the State Sovereignty Commission as its executive agency to wage the state’s massive campaign against racial desegregation and the ever-intensifying crusade for civil rights in Mississippi. Drawing on the newly opened materials at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, this book, the winner of the 2002 Richard A. McLemore Book Prize of the Mississippi Historical Society, traces the vicissitudes that took the State sovereignty Commission from governmental limelight to public opprobrium.


In this book, I analyze some historical aspects of important socio-political phenomena in Japan. The feminist attitude toward problems prior to World War II in Japan is one of the focuses of this book. In addition, the other major concerns of this book are to explore the ideological aspects of woman suffrage organizations both in Japan and in the US and to examine the thoughts of their leaders.

The book examines the writings of William Faulkner alongside those of Japanese authors. The author’s approach to literary criticism is highly personal and includes reflections on her own life. A sampling of topics includes Japanese Christianity in Shusaku Endo’s *Silence*, two types of love in Faulkner’s *The Wild Palms*, and the problem of language in Faulkner’s *Pylon*.


This work investigates the interactions between African American communities and Japanese corporations in Georgia from 1994 through 1995. The impact of Japanese firms on African Americans, the social and cultural ties between them and the perceptions of African Americans and Japanese businessmen about each other are analyzed based on official data and personal interviews with people concerned.

**DISSERTATIONS**


This dissertation is a study of the Atlantic Charter as a significant document in American diplomacy during World War II. It discusses the Atlantic Charter in broad historical and international contexts as well as American domestic politics. In so doing, this author evaluates the Atlantic Charter as a political démarche that elevated the United States to a position of a world leader.


By paying special attention to the transitional stages and processes in the development of African American efforts to acquire land in lowcountry South Carolina during the Civil War and Reconstruction, this thesis analyses and evaluates African American agrarian perceptions of freedom.

From her high evaluation of “Silence” and “Nothingness,” and even from her knowledge of sciences, Emily Dickinson dared to take “Renunciation” in her life, which is her strategy to produce and protect her own “white” world of poetry. By “depositing herself and “chisell[ing] all [her] tune” into not just “stone” but a “Marble Disc,” she tried to transport her life and poetry to the far future after her death, and to resurrect and surprise the people in the future like a “Fossil Man.”


For the last generation, since their upsurge in 1970’s, various ethnic voices have extended a concerted change of tones. The former, ideological messages are gradually giving way to a more mythical story-telling. Examining three different voices—Japanese, Chinese, and African—comparatively, this dissertation clarifies the process and significance of this synchronized shift from ideology to myth.