

Editor's Introduction, 2007

In 2006, the Japanese Association for American Studies celebrated its 40th anniversary with a special one-day symposium held just prior to the association's regular annual meeting. Seven invited speakers, a range of commentators, and the audience at large spent a productive day collectively engaging with the concept of the "transpacific" and the various ways in which such a concept might enable innovative reformulations of Americanist themes, narratives, and scholarly practices.

The main section of this special issue of *The Japanese Journal of American Studies* is devoted to the proceedings of that symposium; it includes revised versions of the seven core papers and an introduction from the chair of the symposium and JAAS vice-president Natsuki Aruga.

In addition to the symposium proceedings, this issue of the journal also includes two presidential addresses delivered at the 2006 annual meeting, Karen Halttunen's "Transnationalism and American Studies in Place," and Daizaburo Yui's "Searching for Inter-Civilizational Dialogue," as well as three papers contributed to the journal by members of the JAAS, and brief abstracts of English-language works published by the association's members in the previous year.

The three contributed papers, fortuitously, all develop in their substantive analysis one or more of the issues raised at the anniversary symposium. In "Estranged Sisterhood: The Wartime Trans-Pacific Dialogue of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, 1931-1945," Manako Ogawa responds to the eurocentrism of previous studies of women's transnational activities with a focus on transpacific dialogue and the national chapters of the World's WCTU in the US, Japan, and China. Toru Umezaki takes up a different but equally transnational geography in his paper "Breaking Through the Cane-Curtain: The Cuban Revolution and the Emergence of New York's Radical Youth, 1961-1965," detailing the ways in which student members of the Progressive Labor Movement became radicalized in the course of visits to Cuba, turning toward a view of US foreign policy attuned to the connection of racism with imperialism. Finally, in his study "Made in Kentucky: The Meanings of 'Local' Food Products in Kentucky's Farmers' Markets," Taro Futamura undertakes the

destabilization of yet another apparently natural spatial category, arguing that the marketing use of the term “local” serves to hide more than it reveals about the sites of food production and the politics of consumer-producer relations.

In the past, the *JJAS* has devoted itself primarily to the publication of English-language work submitted by JAAS members. In that sense, the emphasis in this special issue on contributions from non-members represents something of a break with tradition. It might even seem, as a result, that this issue of the journal has taken up the symposium’s emphasis on the transnational in a most practical fashion, with a shift away from its traditional focus on work produced by members of the national association and towards a more inclusive internationalism. Such an interpretation, however, would depend upon a quite limited understanding of the “national” and the “international.” In practice, as much of the symposium discussion suggested, and as many of the papers presented in this issue of the journal demonstrate, the binary construction underpinning the idea that the national and the international stand in mutually-defining opposition is very much open to question.

The modifier “Japanese” in the journal’s title, for example, cannot be taken in any simple way to indicate that the journal is a “national” rather than an “international” publication. For while the term might seem at first to refer most naturally to the predominant (but nonetheless not defining) characteristics of the membership of the JAAS—in terms of citizenship, for example, ethnicity, language(s) of choice, or place of birth—it might also be taken to refer to a mapping of the international scholarly world in which the Japanese academy was strategically located at the center, as origin, destination, and point of reference. And it might also be understood to refer much more simply to the fact that the journal is edited by JAAS members and produced in Japan, supported in part by a grant-in-aid for the Publication of Scientific Research Results from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

The modifier “international” in the title of the symposium is equally complex in its implications, not least because the very performance of the international in this case simultaneously functions to reinscribe the significance of its constituent national categories: the symposium seemed so clearly “international” precisely because it brought together for a one-day event an ingathering of scholars from half-a-dozen locations outside Japan. International inclusiveness was thereby indicated by the range in affiliations of its speakers, even though the audience was made up largely of Japan-based scholars, it was sponsored by a national association, and it took place in a single location. The *JJAS* in its more usual form, on the other hand, performs its internationalism not so much through ingathering as through outreach, aiming to make work produced by Japan-based scholars more widely and evenly accessible within the worldwide American studies community. Now freely accessible to members and non-members alike on the internet, the journal thereby articulates its inclusiveness not in terms of

authorship but in terms of audience. In this sense, the *JJAS*, like the symposium, is both the product of a national association and yet international in its scope and purpose.

SHEILA HONES
Editor

For those who wish to submit a manuscript to the *Japanese Journal of American Studies*:

1. Contributors must be dues-paying members of the JAAS.
2. Contributors are expected to observe our time schedule. They must first submit the title and abstract (about 300 words) by mid-January. We are unable to accept the manuscript without this procedure.
3. The final manuscript (maximum 7000 words including notes) is due early May. The editorial committee will inform each contributor of the result of the selection process by the end of June. If accepted, the paper will be published in June the following year.
4. The fall issue of the JAAS Newsletter will carry a "call for papers" announcement with exact deadlines and the special theme for the forthcoming issue.
5. The JAAS will accept inquiries through email:
office@jaas.gr.jp