English-Language Works by JAAS Members
2007

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


This article considers the way in which claims of multiculturalism are compatible with those of other minorities, such as women, elderly people, and homosexuals. It focuses on recent multiculturalist arguments by Will Kymlicka and Eisenberg Avigail, among others.


This article reviews the history of Japanese Canadians’ political, economic, and cultural activism before and after World War II, and elucidates how migration generated and shaped those activities and activism. It aims at developing Asian Canadian studies that could offer critical sites/sights for illuminating the dynamic history of the Asian-Pacific diaspora.

Based on the content analysis of editorials about the Iraq War in leading U.S. and Japanese newspapers, this article explores the differing notions of “evilness” the newspapers implicitly and explicitly express, with a focus on “evil” as socially constructed by the different historical and cultural backgrounds of the West (United States) and the East (Japan).


This article explores a factor that may affect differences in the U.S. and Japanese perspectives on the Iraq War in leading print media: public opinion formation. More specifically, it investigates interrelationships among public policy processes, public opinion, and news media coverage about the war, using statistical methods to analyze the congruence between news trends concerning the war and changes in public opinion. Special attention is paid to the Japanese media’s negativity toward U.S. Iraq policies.


This article examines how, in *The Light in the Piazza*, Elizabeth Spencer reconfigures the character type of the “American girl abroad” in order to provide ironic commentary on the condition of American womanhood in the 1950s, as well as to question how traveling abroad and viewing home from that vantage point complicates gendered identity.


This article analyzes Tocqueville’s argument about war and the army in the historical context of postrevolutionary France, with reference to Benjamin Constant’s discussion of the same topic. It discovers in the Tocquevillian viewpoint theoretical suggestions useful for a critical understanding of the formation of the military-industrial complex in the United States in the twentieth century.


This article analyzes the U.S. federal government’s decision-making process in suppressing the Japanese “enemy language” press in the earliest phase of World War II. Because of civilian officials’ persistent efforts to preserve and utilize the Japanese-language press to support national war policies, it was exempted from total suppression. Nevertheless, it was subject to some degree of control throughout the war.

A response to the panelists Gary Laderman, Andrew Rotter, and Hortense Spillers at Nagoya American Studies Summer Seminars 2007, this article argues that the concept of violence should be expanded for a closer analysis. References are made to Walter Benjamin, Rene Girard, Georges Bataille, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., and two pictures from the nineteenth-century temperance movement.


This lecture, given at the invitation of the third Toyohiko Kagawa Lectureship, Princeton Theological Seminary, traces the life and thought of a Japanese Christian leader who studied at Princeton about a hundred years ago, and examines why this renowned “Japanese Schweitzer” was little known in his home country.


This article deals with the essays Suzuki Daisetsu (Daisetz T. Suzuki) wrote while in the United States and published in a Japanese Buddhist journal. These articles, which he wrote in Japanese rather than English, reveal how his transnational experience influenced him and what he considered to be religiously interesting to share with Japanese Buddhists.


The article reappraises the relationship between the Monroe Doctrine and Russia. It argues that comparatively friendly Russian-American relations, and especially the high esteem U.S. policymakers had for Czar Alexander I, contributed to the unilateral declaration of the doctrine, which originated in a British proposal for an Anglo-American declaration.


This article investigates changing ideas about nation and race presented to Croatian immigrants in the United States in the early twentieth century. By-laws, newspaper, and minutes of meetings of the National Croatian Society are analyzed. The formation of Croatian ethnic identity is discussed in relation to the expression in various forms of their transnational consciousness.

Nomura, Shiori. “New Perspectives for Textual Analysis in Media Studies.”

This article addresses some key theoretical points for analyzing texts in the media. First, a traditional method of analyzing texts in media studies, quantitative content analysis, is assessed. Next, recent theories of texts and discourse are discussed. Finally, there are suggestions for using recent qualitative methods for analyzing media texts.

ARTICLES IN BOOKS


War in the twentieth century was a traumatic phenomenon that left behind survivors who repeatedly engage in acts of remembrance. Memorializing the significant events of the twentieth century has become important in China, Japan, and the United States. The past several decades have seen a proliferation of museums and monuments in these countries commemorating events of World War II. This article focuses on these three countries through a comparative analysis of their war museums. By comparing the way war is remembered in these countries, we can see how a nation reproduces in memory the conditions of nationalism.


On December 10, 1906, the twenty-sixth president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, became the first American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. It was for his contribution to bringing the Russo-Japanese War to a close through the Treaty of Portsmouth. However, the Japanese government never invited Roosevelt to Japan or presented him with any awards. This essay examines the reasons why.


Cinema has been a transnational cultural form from its very beginning. At the same time, it has often emerged as a national cinema, formed by specific discourses on nationalism and modernization. This essay examines Ofuji Noburo’s 1926 animated film Baguda-jo
no tozoku (The Thief of Baguda Castle) with regard to this transnational/national duality.


This essay closely examines Suzuki Seijun’s 1967 film Branded to Kill (Koroshi No Rakuin) and locates it in the historical context of the Japanese film industry and the political and cultural conditions of Japanese society of the late 1960s. More specifically, this essay examines Branded to Kill as the focal point of Japanese film noir and the Japanese avant-garde.

BOOKS


This book contains essays on the impact of Alfred T. Mahan on Japan’s strategic thinking, the politics of naval limitations, the decision-making process at the Washington Conference, the path to Pearl Harbor, the effect of the atomic bomb on Japan’s decision to surrender, and a comparison of U.S. and Japanese perceptions of the decision to use the atomic bomb.


This critical look at Hayakawa’s stardom reconstructs the Japanese actor’s remarkable career, from the films that preceded his meteoric rise to fame as the star of Cecil B. DeMille’s The Cheat (1915) through his reign as a matinee idol, subsequent decline, and Hollywood resurrection.


This book traces the route of how Asians and Asian Americans have come to have a remarkable presence in Western classical music in the last few decades. It discusses the significance of musicians’ racial, gender, and class identities for their work in classical music and analyzes the relationship between cultural identity and music making.

This work investigates the relationship between the media and politics by analyzing the Iraq War coverage of two leading U.S. and Japanese newspapers: the *New York Times* and the *Asahi*. It reveals that these two print media, although both liberal in their general orientation, have treated the Iraq War differently.


This is a study on the relationship between the discourse of the American West and women’s journalism. It presents how women participated in and intervened in the construction of geographical conceptions of “the West.” Applying a gender perspective, it provides a thorough examination of women’s writings in newspapers and magazines.