English-Language Works by JAAS Members
2018

The following citations and abstracts introduce recent journal publications written in English by members of the Japanese Association of American Studies on topics related to American Studies.

ARTICLES IN JOURNALS


By chronologically reviewing Herman Melville’s works, Furuya attempts to make visible Melville’s complex ideas about translation that he conceived through learning foreign languages, developed through reading contemporary translations and world literature theories, and reshaped through observing US language policies in the second half of the nineteenth century.


This paper considers the ethics of displaying the “human being” as an object at museums. By analyzing human remain exhibits in the name of science and art education at Mütter Museum, the first medical museum in America, it demonstrates how it can be problematic to juggle authenticity and entertainment simultaneously.


Takeda examines whether different editions of college introductory American
government textbooks have increased coverage of Asian Pacific Americans over time (1998–99, 2005–6, and 2011–12) and finds that textbooks increased coverage of APAs only marginally; some textbooks even decreased coverage of APAs. The author concludes with some recommendations for improvement.


Tatsumi meditates on the transpacific imagination of cyberpunk by reconstructing its literary and cultural heritage. He argues that we should not forget that cyberpunk is derived not only from the cutting edge of technology but also from “Lo Tek” sensibility cultivated in the Gibsonian picturesque ruins or dark cities such as a major extraterritorial zone in Hong Kong, Kowloon Walled City.


Paul de Man, the guru of Yale critics, along with his male colleagues Derrida, Bloom, Miller and Hartman, initiated literary theory into the era of deconstruction in the 1970s. However, Tatsumi argues that de Man was primarily influenced by Mary McCarthy and Hannah Arendt back in the 1940s.


Yamanaka explores how African American women became the targets of racial harassment on desegregated streetcars in postbellum New Orleans. She argues that desegregated streetcars were far from peaceful and demonstrates that they were contested spaces of white dominance and African American resistance. Working-class African American women were at the forefront of the struggle for equal treatment and self-determination.

**ARTICLES IN BOOKS**

Although highly influential in Japan’s high growth period, Sakyo Komatsu, a distinguished writer in the first generation of Japanese science fiction, has long been neglected internationally. It is high time to reconsider the influence of his early postapocalyptic novel, *The Day of Resurrection* (1964), on Michael Crichton’s technothriller *The Andromeda Strain* (1969).

**BOOKS**


Kami explains why it took so long for the United States to restore its diplomatic relations with Cuba — despite the end of the Cold War two decades earlier. Drawing on multi-archival research, the author shows how Cuba-to-US migration transformed the making of U.S. foreign policy during the last decades of the Cold War.


Tatsumi employs a transnational and transhistorical approach to American Renaissance writers. Starting with the trans-Atlantic impacts of Kant’s philosophy on Coleridge’s Romanticism and Emerson’s transcendentalism, the author investigates not only the trans-Pacific negotiations between Edgar Allan Poe and Rampo Edogawa but also the transchronological interactions between Emily Dickinson, Joseph Cornell, and William Gibson.

**DISSERTATION**


Hattori analyzes how “youth” as a political category was defined and redefined in the United States in response to global crises such as the Great Depression and the two World Wars and demonstrates that national security concerns determined the purview of federal-state jurisdiction over American people in presumed peacetime as well as wartime.

Yamanaka examines how Creoles of color advocated for racial equality in postbellum New Orleans. Despite their identity as francophone free people of color, Creoles of color developed their desegregation ideology as a common cause for all people and built interracial coalitions that became the foundation for their anti-segregation campaigns.