



JOURNEYING (THE) AMERICAS THE PARADOXES OF TRAVEL (AND) NARRATIVES

IASA 11th World Congress 2023

Call for Contributions (first circular)



UNIVERSITY OF SILESIA
IN KATOWICE

International American Studies Association is delighted to announce the Call for Contributions for the 11th World Congress of IASA titled *Journeying (the) Americas The Paradoxes of Travel (and) Narratives*. This time,

the organization of the IASA World Congress has been entrusted to our excellent Colleagues from the Institute of Cultural Studies, University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland. The Congress, organized and hosted both on the University premises and on line, will be held between September 7th and 10th, 2023.

*Visual Stories:
Latin America in Focus
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JOURNEYING (THE) AMERICAS
THE PARADOXES OF TRAVEL (AND) NARRATIVES
11TH WORLD CONGRESS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
UNIVERSITY OF SILESIA IN KATOWICE, POLAND
07–10.09.2023
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The phenomenon of travel has been fraught with paradoxes since the times immemorial. Perhaps the most striking of the travel-related controversies is the fact that although it is one of humanity's earliest experiences, journeying has never been available to all. Regarded as one of the elementary and universal social practices, it was—and still is—the share of the few. Equally paradoxically, despite the archetypal status of the very concept of the journey, in the social and geographical sense, traveling itself is a rela-

tively new phenomenon: the onset of leisure travel comes as late as in the 19th century, when modern means of mass transportation became popularly available and affordable. Unsurprisingly, then, many of those craving the knowledge of the distant lands, used to depend, and still largely rely on, mediated reports: texts, images, and other narratives representing fragments of experienced (or imagined) reality that always require voluntary suspension of disbelief.

Notably, in the past, journeying was largely driven by economic or political compulsion (escaping persecution, wars and conquests, trade, or search for greener pastures) or by the sense of religious duty (peregrinations and pilgrimages). It therefore comes as no surprise that along with the expansion of the intellectual horizons of the Old World that the invasion of the Americas brought, travel writing, especially in its non-fictional dimension, became particularly important. Realities described in early narratives of exploration, early epistolography, histories, personal diaries, or represented in etchings, have inspired countless “American dreams” worldwide, energizing colonial expansion and faith-based-initiatives alike. Intriguingly, however, although several centuries have passed since the Spanish Conquest, in the perceptions of billions of people across the Atlantic and the Pacific, the Americas remain, by and large, imaginary Americas.

Just as importantly, the two Oceans, simultaneously connecting and separating continents, serve as hermeneutic lenses for the Americans who “read” the world outside of the Americas. The paradoxes of travel (and) writing continue to loom large in narratives created by poets, prosateurs, filmmakers, visual artists, and musicians, or simply leisure tourists, who inhabit the Americas from the North-West Passage to Tierra del Fuego, and who have explored Europe, Asia, Australia and Oceania, or those who have been experiencing the Americas hemispherically. Like in the past, also in the present, travel has been generating vivid interest owing to the ecstatic promise it carries. To many inhabitants of the Americas to whom voyaging remains unattainable, the world is, by and large, an imaginary world.

Over time, mythical, religious, ideological, and metaphysical senses have layered upon the practical dimension of the voyage, rendering it, in almost all cultures, one of the universal metaphors of human condition. The journey, involving the existential experience of change, has gained the status of a symbol of the human lifespan; it became the figure of the philosophical exploration of oneself, and a favorite trope for the search for knowledge. In its fundamental sense, as a process of discovering real spaces and unfamiliar communities, voyage, for millennia, has been considered instrumental to the exchange of knowledge, dissemination of ideas and exportation of cultural values. Acknowledging the immense complexity of the phenomenon at stake, the Organizers of the 11th World Congress of the International American Studies Association invite papers representing such disciplines as ethnology, anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, literary studies, linguistics, religious studies, history, or cultural geography focusing, but not limited to, the following issues:

HEMISPHERIC AND TRANSOCEANIC PERSPECTIVES IN THE HISTORY OF TRAVEL WRITING

- Imaginary Americas: Non-American Transoceanic Travel Narratives
- Imaginary Worlds: American Transoceanic Narratives
- Imaginary Americas: American Hemispheric Travel Narratives
- The World's Americas/The American Worlds in Cinema and Television
- The World's Americas/The American Worlds in Art
- Mapping and Remapping: Cartographic Imagination vs. Hemispheric and Transoceanic Travel
- Representing the Americas/the World in Social Media: Travel Vlogs and Travel Blogs

TRANSOCEANIC/HEMISPHERIC TRAVEL AND VALUE TRANSFERS

- Travel and Directionality of Value Transfer: Donor Cultures, Acceptor Cultures
- Travel and Export/Import of Cultural Values: Laws, Customs, Aesthetics
- Travel and Imposition/Appropriation of Cultural Values
- "The Far Away" as the "Long Ago": Primitivist Fantasies in the Face of Reality
- Travel as a Medium of Power

THEORETICAL CONVERGENCES

- Hemispheric and Transoceanic American Studies in the Lens of Travel Studies (Luis Turner, John Ash, Dean MacCannell, John Urry).
- Dennison Nash and Others: Ethnocentrism, Functionalism and Journeying Americas in the light of the Theory of Travel
- *Facta-Ficta* and Historical Fictions in the Context of Transoceanic and Hemispheric Travel Narratives
- From Picaresque Novel to Evening News: the Evolution of Travel Genres in the Light of Hemispheric and Transoceanic American Studies

MIGRATIONS IN HEMISPHERIC AND TRANSOCEANIC TRAVEL NARRATIVES

- Exile/Expulsion/Extradictions
- Peregrinations/Pilgrimages/Awakenings
- In Search of Greener Pastures: Migrations and Opportunities
- The World/the Americas in the Eyes of Expats/Temporary Expats/Diasporas
- Life-Writing/Biography/Autobiography

THE TOURIST'S EYE

- Grand Tours: American Travel Literatures and the World Legacy
- In Search of Roots: Travels to the Lands of Forefathers
- The Tourist Industry: Packaging Experience
- The Tourist Gaze
- Hemispheric and Transoceanic Travel Narratives in the Age of the Pandemic
- The Americas and the World in post 9/11 Travel Narratives
- The Ethics/Aesthetics/(An)aesthetics of Travel
- "When in Rome...": Travel and Protocol

NOMADLAND: AMERICA ON THE WHEELS

- Tourism/Colonization/Decolonization
- Traveling/Touring Combat Zones
- Humanitarian Travel
- Travelling and Emotions
- Faces of Hospitality
- Race/Class/Gender on the Road

HEMISPHERIC AND TRANSOCEANIC ACADEMIC MOBILITY NARRATIVES

- Preconceptions/Postconceptions: Travel and Learning
- Overcoming Privilege: The Role of International Mobility Programmes
- Hemispheric and Transoceanic Circulation of Knowledge
- Knowledge-Based Economy and Hemispheric and Transoceanic Travel
- Academic Mobility and Narratives of Public Diplomacy

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POST-HUMAN JOURNEYS

- Hemispheric/Transoceanic Travel in Ecocritical Perspectives
- Travel/Technology/Tempo
- Between Real and Hyperreal AI and Online Journeying
- Traveling/Networking/Rhizomatic Subject
- The World, the Americas, and Traveling Avatars

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: MARCH 30TH 2023

- Submission proposals must be submitted via: www.iasa-world.org
- Confirmation of acceptance: by April 15th 2023
- Submissions MUST include:
 - 1) First Name and Family Name of the Author/Author
 - 2) Institutional Affiliation of the Author/Author
 - 3) Author/Author's ORCID number
 - 4) Author/Author's email address
 - 5) If the Author/Author wishes to receive an invoice, the exact name and address of the institution, including its Tax Identification Number.
 - 6) The title of the presentation
 - 7) A 350 words' abstract of the presentation
 - 8) A 250 words' biographical note on the Author/Author
 - 9) Keywords
 - 10) Disciplines represented (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_academic_disciplines)

CONGRESS FEES:

Non-obligatory annual IASA Membership Fee:

- Doctoral Students and Junior Faculty: 10 EURO
- Senior Faculty: 30 EURO

1) Congress Participation On-Site Fees

- Tenured Faculty Members (IASA Members) on site: 120 EURO
- Non-tenured Faculty Members and PhD candidates (IASA Members) on site: 80 EURO
- Tenured Faculty (Non-IASA Members) on site: 160 EURO
- Non-tenured Faculty Members and PhD candidates (Non-IASA Members) on site: 100 EURO

2) Congress Participation On-Line Fees:

- IASA Online Participants: 30 EURO
- Non-IASA Online Participants: 60 EURO

3) Congress Participation for IASA Early Career Fellows:

- Online Participants: 20 EURO
- On-Site: 50 EURO

THE ON-SITE CONGRESS FEE COVERS:

- Congress materials
- Coffee breaks
- Congress Participation Certificates
- Social evening/concert
- Administrative costs (including the rental of conference halls, multimedia, and invoicing)

THE ONLINE CONGRESS FEE COVERS:

- The license of the online conferencing system
- The Conference Participation Certificate
- Administrative costs (including the rental of conference halls, multimedia, and invoicing)

THE CONGRESS FEE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Transportation costs
- Board and Accommodation costs
- Insurance costs
- Visa costs

ALL UPDATES WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS SECTION OF THE IASA WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://IASA-WORLD.ORG/11TH-IASA-WORLD-CONGRESS-2023](https://iasa-world.org/11th-iasa-world-congress-2023)

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