



VOL. 2, №2 JANUARY 2007

ISSN 1991-2773

EDITOR

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Michael Boyden

RIAS IT AND GRAPHICS TEAM

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Paweł Jędrzejko

IT ADVISORS: Tomasz Adamczewski
Wojciech Liber

DTP ADVISOR: Michał Derda-Nowakowski

EDITORIAL BOARD

Theo D'haen, Anders Olsson, Liam Kennedy,
Sieglinde Lemke, Giorgio Mariani, Ian Tyrrell,
Helmbrecht Breinig, Rosario Faraudo, Djelal Kadir

TYPESETTING: EX MACHINA EDITIONS, Poland
e-mail: info@exmachina.pl



Review of International American Studies (RIAS), is the electronic journal of the International American Studies Association, the only worldwide, independent, non-governmental association of American Studies. *RIAS* serves as agora for the global network of international scholars, teachers, and students of America as hemispheric and global phenomenon. *RIAS* is published three times a year: in September, January and May by IASA with the institutional support of the University of Silesia in Katowice lending server space to some of IASA websites and the electronic support of the Soft For Humans CMS Designers. Subscription rates for *RIAS* are included along with the Association's annual dues as specified in the "Membership" section of the Association's website (www.iasaweb.org).

All topical manuscripts should be directed to the Editor via online submission forms available at *RIAS* website (www.iasa-rias.org). General correspondence and matters concerning the functioning of *RIAS* should be addressed to *RIAS* Editor-in-Chief:

Michael Boyden
Harvard University
Department of English and American
Literature and Language
Barker Center
12 Quincy Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
USA

e-mail: michael.boyden@iasa-rias.org

On the *RIAS* cover we used the fragment of „Maze 2”, a work by **Wysz** (<http://flickr.com/people/wysz/>) licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.0. You can use our cover collage due above license.





SPECIAL ISSUE:
**AMERICAN STUDIES
AND THE DILEMMAS
OF MULTILINGUALISM**



Jannika Bock is a PhD candidate in American Studies at the University of Hamburg. During the fall of 2006, she was a Visiting Fellow at the Harvard University Department of English and American Literature and Language. Her doctoral dissertation examines Henry David Thoreau's influence on John Cage. She has studied at several American universities, among them Smith College, Naropa University's Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics, and Cornell, where she participated in the 29th session of 'The School of Criticism and Theory'. Her research has been funded by grants from Fulbright and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

Evelyn Nien-Ming Ch'ien is currently Assistant Professor of English at the University of Minnesota. She is the author of *Weird English* (Harvard University Press, 2004), which explores experimental and unorthodox uses of English by multilingual writers, including Vladimir Nabokov, Arundhati Roy and Junot Díaz. The work examines the syntactic and grammatical innovations of these authors in their hybrid creations of English. Her work also appeared in *The New Centennial Review*, *Transtext(e)/Transcultures*, the *Village Voice*, *A. Magazine*, and *The Literary Review*.

Paul Armin Frank is Professor Emeritus of English Philology (North-American Literatures) at the University of Göttingen (he retired in 2000). He is founding director of the Sonderforschungsbereich 309 'Center for the Advanced Study of Literary Translation' (1985–1996) and acting director of the Inter-American Section, Sonderforschungsbereich 529 'Center for the Advanced Study of the Internationality of National Literatures' (1997–2000).

Patrick Imbert is a Full Professor at the University of Ottawa, Professor of the year in the Faculty of Arts 1998, University Research Chair Holder (Title: 'Canada: Social and Cultural Challenges in a Knowledge-Based Society'), Executive Director of the International American Studies Association and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He has published more than 200 scientific articles and 19 books and collections, both scholarship and fiction, among which *The Permanent Transition* (1998), *Transit* (2001), *Réincarnations* (2004), *Trajectoires culturelles transaméricaines* (2004), *Consensual Disagreement: Canada and the Americas* (2005), *America's Worlds and the World's Americas/Les mondes des Amériques et les Amériques du monde* (2006).

Melani McAlister is Associate Professor of American Studies and International Affairs at George Washington University. She is the author of *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and US Interests in the Middle East since 1945* (University of California Press, 2001, rev. ed. 2005). She is currently working on a study of Christian evangelicals, popular culture, and global issues, tentatively titled *Our God in the World: The Global Visions*

of *American Evangelicals*. Dr. McAlister is also co-editing, with R. Marie Griffith, a special issue of *American Quarterly* on 'Religion and Politics in Contemporary America'. In recent years she has analyzed US perceptions of the Middle East in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Nation*, among others, as well as in interviews with CNN, the BBC, Voice of America, and NPR. She is on the editorial boards of *Diplomatic History* and *American Quarterly* and the international board of the Center for American Studies and Research at the American University of Beirut.

Patrick McGreevy is the Director of the Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR) at the American University of Beirut. His research and writing focus on landscape and nationalism in the Antebellum US, US-Canadian relations, and cross-cultural communication. He is the author of *Imagining Niagara* (1994), *Stairway to Empire* (forthcoming), and numerous scholarly articles. His interdisciplinary teaching addresses 'America' from the vantage point of Lebanon.

Doris Sommer is Ira Jewells Professor of Romance Languages and Director of the Graduate Studies in Spanish at Harvard University. She has published widely on issues of language and bilingualism in the literatures of the Americas. Her books include *One Master for Another: Populism as Patriarchal Rhetoric in Dominican Novels* (University Press of America, 1984), *Foundational Fictions: The National Romances of Latin America* (University of California Press, 1991), *Proceed with Caution: When Engaged by Minority Writing in the Americas* (Harvard University Press, 1999), and, her most recent work, *Bilingual Aesthetics: A New Sentimental Education* (Duke University Press, 2004).