

AMERICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Northumbria University



Volume 1

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INTO THE FUTURE: AMERICAN STUDIES COMES TO NORTHUMBRIA

As Northumbria University's first Professor in American Studies, I am delighted to write a few words of welcome to introduce the inaugural issue of our Newsletter, completed as we welcome our first cohort of American Studies undergraduates.

More than a year ago, Northumbria decided to launch the biggest initiative in American Studies in the UK for more than a generation. That decision was based primarily on three factors: enormous and rising demand for American-themed modules among students in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; employer feedback suggesting that there was growing appreciation for degree programmes which require students to deal confidently with information from a range of sources and disciplines; and the University's desire to support a subject area that could immediately boast world-class research-led teaching. On a personal level, having swapped the oldest American Studies chair in the country's first-ever American Studies programme at Manchester University for a newly minted professorship in the country's newest American Studies programme, I am happy to report that the groundwork has now been laid for creating a flagship research and teaching unit at Northumbria.

As you will see from the "Meet the Staff" section, thanks to the University's investment we have now assembled one of the largest concentrations of Americanists outside of North America. Sheer numbers help us to offer an unusually wide range of attractive undergraduate modules on American film, history, literature and politics, and to ensure that students usually get their favoured options.

Not that it's all about size! The calibre of teaching and research among those staff is also first-rate.



Committed to the idea that innovative, top quality teaching flows from a dynamic research culture, it is worth taking a look at “The Research Year” section of the *Newsletter*, just to see the range of activities in which we have been engaged recently—and also to note the international impact and recognition of those activities. Research in American Studies has already been enhanced by the recruitment of a number of excellent PhD students working on American topics. There are also many postgraduate students with significant American interests enrolled on popular taught MRes and MA programmes in the Humanities. With the size and diversity of our staff, increased investment from the library in American resources, and studentship money available on a competitive basis for exceptional applicants, we expect to see our postgraduate community flourish in the next few years.

Elsewhere in the *Newsletter*, if you are a prospective undergraduate you can learn more about why you might study American Studies—and why you should do it at Northumbria!; if you are a teacher, you can find out how you and your pupils can make use of our expertise either by attending one of our American-themed A Level Workshops, or by arranging for a staff member to visit your school; if you are a current Northumbria student, member of staff, manager or administrator, you can get a feel for the programme and its ambitions for the future. And, in conclusion, it is worth noting that those ambitions are pretty lofty. With continued University investment and administrative support, a staff of exceptional researchers and teachers, and the presence of excellent undergraduate and postgraduate students, Northumbria should soon be home to one of Europe’s, if not the world’s, leading American Studies programmes.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Ward". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Brian Ward, Professor in American Studies

MEET THE AMERICAN STUDIES STAFF

Professor Brian Ward, Professor in American Studies

Brian came to Northumbria via posts at the Universities of Manchester, Florida and Newcastle. His teaching and research focuses on the American South, the African American Experience (particularly the civil rights and black power movements), popular music, the mass media, America in the 1920s and 1960s, and various aspects of Anglo-American cultural relations.

Dr Ishan Ashutosh, Lecturer in American Studies and Politics

Ishan joined Northumbria University from Ohio State University in September 2012. His work examines South Asian migrations within the context of emerging practices and regimes of citizenship across nation-states. Ishan has published articles on South Asian immigrant neighbourhoods and transnational identities in Canada and the United States and is looking to extend his comparative perspective to include Britain and the North East.

Dr Victoria Bazin, Senior Lecturer in American Literature

Victoria has published journal articles on twentieth century women’s writing including editing a special issue on women and age. She recently completed a monograph on the poet Marianne Moore. Her research interests rest primarily in American poetic modernism and magazine culture during the inter-war years.

Dr Tanja Buelmann, Senior Lecturer in History

Tanja joined the History team at Northumbria in 2009. Her research and teaching interests are in wider British World history, especially the cultural and social history of Scottish, English and German immigrant communities. She is particularly interested in the communities’ associational life in North America, the Antipodes and parts of Asia.

Dr Michael Patrick Cullinane, Senior Lecturer in History

Born and raised in New Jersey, Michael studies American foreign policy and transatlantic relations. His current research interests are in the history of

the United States and transatlantic relations in the early twentieth century, including cultural elements of diplomacy and statecraft, Anglo-American relations, and the life, times and legacies of Theodore Roosevelt.

Professor Ian Davidson, Professor of English Literature

Ian has contributed to a range of American-themed literature modules, as well as teaching creative writing. In addition to his scholarly criticism, which focuses on ideas of space in contemporary poetry, Ian is a practicing poet whose publications include four full-length collections of poetry and a number of shorter chapbooks and pamphlets.

Dr Clare Elliott, Lecturer in Nineteenth Century Literature

Having taught at the universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Teesside, Clare joined Northumbria University in 2011. Her publishing and research activities lie in the nineteenth century with particular interests in Transatlantic Literary Studies, American Romanticism, and slavery.

Professor Sylvia Ellis, Professor in International History

Sylvia's research and teaching interests lie in post-1945 British and American political and diplomatic history. She has recently completed a monograph on Lyndon Johnson and Civil Rights (*Freedom's Pragmatist: Lyndon Johnson and the Civil Right Movement*) and is working on Harold Wilson and the Vietnam War, alongside a study of female activism on US campuses.

Dr David T. Gleeson, Reader in History

David is a native of Ireland, but has spent 18 years studying and teaching in the United States. His main research and teaching interests concern the Irish in the Atlantic World, the English Diaspora, and the American Civil War. His second monograph, *The Green and the Gray: The Irish and the Confederate States of America*, appeared this September.

Dr Nick Hayward, Principal Lecturer in Politics
Between 2002-03 Nick was Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, State University of New York in Fredonia, USA. His research and teaching interests are in compar-

ing British and American views of democracy, and symbolic politics and political attitudes.

Dr Ysanne Holt, Reader in Art History

Ysanne's research interests focus primarily on British and US art in the first half of the twentieth century with a special interest in the transatlantic visual cultures and artist networks of the interwar years. She is also General Editor of the important journal *Visual Culture in Britain*.

Professor Peter Hutchings, Professor in Film Studies

Peter works and publishes on British and American film and television history, with special interests in the horror film, science fiction and the thriller. His research-led modules include undergraduate options on "The Horror Film" and "Fantasy Television."

Dr Henry Knight, Lecturer in American Studies

Henry works on American History in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, especially race, region, environment and expansion. His new book is titled *Tropic of Hopes: The Selling of California and Florida, 1869-1929*. Henry joined Northumbria University in September 2012 and is now working on a comparative study of California and Hawaii.

Dr Elizabeth Kramer, Senior Lecturer in Design History

Elizabeth's research focuses on the material culture of manias (Railway mania, Japan mania, Egyptomania, Beatlemania, Wrestlemania, Obamamania) and what we can learn about manias, their critics and participants, and the social, cultural and political issues informing them through the material culture so closely associated with them.

Dr Randall Stephens, Reader in American Studies

Randall was appointed Reader in American Studies at Northumbria in 2012. He is editor of the history magazine *Historically Speaking* and associate editor of the journal *Fides et Historia*. He teaches and publishes on American religious history, popular music, and American conservatism in the twentieth century.

Dr Joe Street, Senior Lecturer in History
Joe joined Northumbria as Senior Lecturer in American History in 2009. His work focuses on the interaction between African American politics and culture in the twentieth century. He teaches modules on the civil rights movement, black power, and America in the 1960s.

Dr Julie Taylor, Lecturer in American Studies
Julie was recruited to Northumbria in 2012 from a lectureship at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University. Her primary area of research is American and transatlantic modernism, with a focus on psychoanalysis and queer theory. Julie has an ongoing interest in the role of the body and feeling in reading and writing.

Dr Melanie Waters, Senior Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Literature
Melanie joined the Department of Humanities at Northumbria University in 2008 after a temporary appointment at Newcastle University. Her research and teaching interests include twentieth-century American poetry, feminist theory, popular culture, and the Gothic (on which she teaches a perennially popular undergraduate module: “Vamps and Virgins”).

AMERICAN STUDIES RESEARCH AT NORTHUMBRIA

At Northumbria, excellent teaching in American Studies is closely allied to excellence in research among our staff. Our status as an important centre for scholarship on various aspects of the American experience is reflected by the quality and volume of the publications we produce; by the national and international recognition of that scholarship in the form of awards, invitations to speak around the globe, external research funding; and by our ability to attract good postgraduates, major academics and professional conferences to Northumbria.

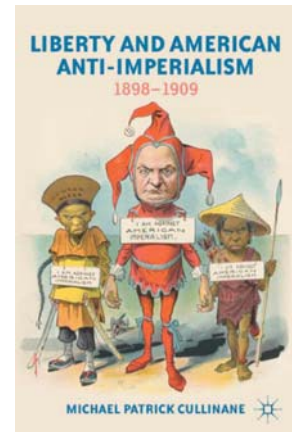
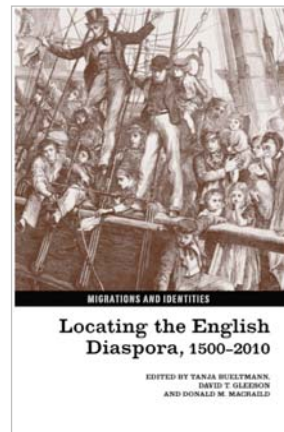
THE RESEARCH YEAR, 2012-13

Here is a brief summary of some of the research-related highlights for the past year or so.

Books Published

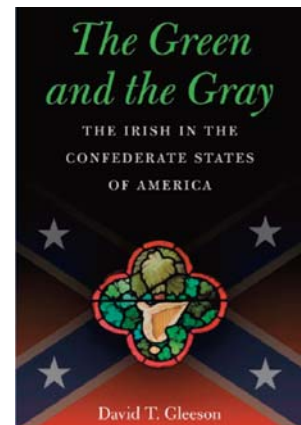
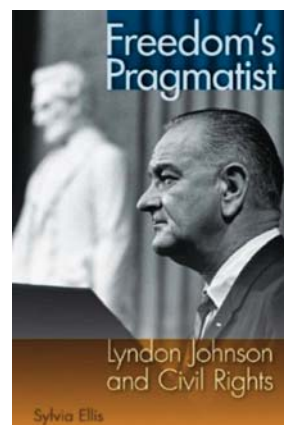
Tanja Bueltmann and David Gleeson (co-eds, with Don MacRaild), *Locating the English Diaspora, 1500-2010* (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2012)

Michael Cullinane, *Liberty and American Anti-Imperialism* (New York and London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012)



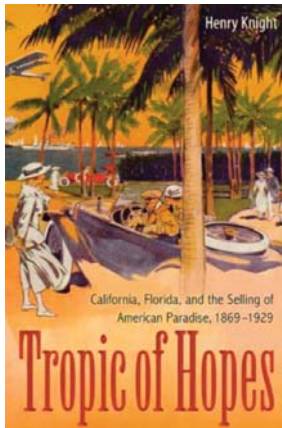
Sylvia Ellis, *Freedom's Pragmatist: Lyndon Johnson and Civil Rights* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2013)

David T. Gleeson, *The Green and the Gray: The Irish in the Confederate States of America* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013)



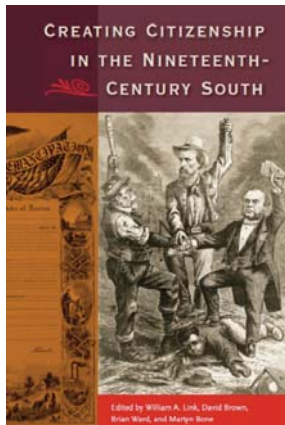
Henry Knight, *Tropic of Hopes: California, Florida and the Selling of American Paradise, 1869-1929* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2013)

Julie Taylor, *Djuna Barnes and Affective Modernism* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2012).

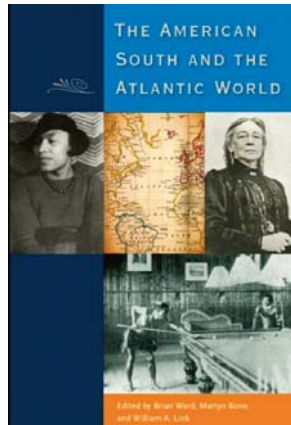
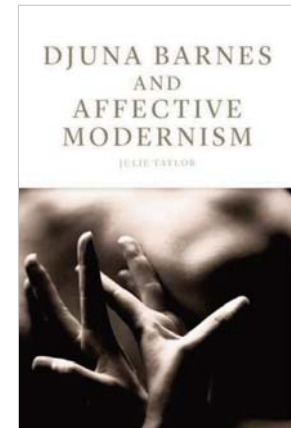


Brian Ward, *Citizenship and Identity in the Nineteenth Century South* (co-edited with William A. Link, David Brown, and Martyn Bone), (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2013)

Brian Ward, *The American South and the Atlantic World* (co-edited with Martyn Bone and William A. Link), (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2013)



Melanie Waters (with Rebecca Munford), *Feminism and Popular Culture: Investigating the Postfeminist Mystique* (London: I. B. Tauris, 2012)



CONFERENCES & MEETINGS HOSTED

British American Nineteenth Century Historians (BrANCH)

David Gleeson was coordinator for the annual BrANCH conference held at Northumbria on October 12-14, 2012 with Edward Baptist of Cornell University as the keynote speaker. The conference also featured a special symposium to mark the 30th anniversary of the publication of Bertram Wyatt-Brown's *Southern Honor: Ethics and Behavior* in the Old South, and the 40th anniversary of John Blasingame's *The Slave Community*, both seminal texts for understanding notions of community, identity and manhood in the antebellum South.

Historians of the Twentieth Century United States (HOTCUS)

The annual HOTCUS conference was held at Northumbria between July 5-7, 2013, with Joe Street as the coordinator. The keynote address on "Civil Rights and Memory in the US" was given by Wesley Hogan of Virginia State University.

Transatlantic Studies Association (TSA)

Michael Cullinane organized the annual TSA conference which came to Northumbria between July 8-11, 2013. Plenary speakers were Donna Alvah of St. Lawrence University, New York and Michael Clark of the Royal United Services Institute.

AWARDS, GRANTS AND HONOURS

Tanja Bueltmann was awarded a Visiting Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh to be taken up in the spring of 2014. Her project is entitled 'From Lad o' Pairts to Night Schools: Ethnic Associations in the Scottish Diaspora and their Role in the Promotion of Education, c.1800 to 1910'.

Michael Cullinane held the William Dearborn Fellowship in American History at Harvard University and was also awarded a visiting North American Studies fellowship from the British Library's Eccles Centre in association with the British Association for American Studies and British Association of Cana-

dian Studies. These awards are for Mike's project "Remembering Theodore Roosevelt" which considers how memories of Roosevelt have been constructed in politics, literature, popular culture and public memorials.

Sylvia Ellis was elected treasurer of the British Association for American Studies in 2012, with Joe Street joining her on the BAAS executive committee in 2013, giving Northumbria an unusually strong presence in the upper reaches of the most important organization for American Studies in the country.

Randall Stephens was named a Distinguished Lecturer by the Organization of American Historians, joining a select group of eminent US historians who are chosen to give lectures across North America each year. Randall is the only scholar among this year's nominees to be based in the UK and joins **Brian Ward**, who has been an OAH Distinguished Lecturer since 2003. See more here: <http://lectures.oah.org/lecturers/lecturer.html?id=613>



Brian Ward was honoured in Birmingham, Alabama in March 2013, at an event to mark the 50th anniversary of the civil rights protests which helped to end



Brian Ward, centre, with veteran civil rights activist Gwendolyn Webb and Bob Friedman. Director of the Birmingham Black Radio Museum Project

formal racial segregation in the US South. Brian was a special guest at a reception jointly hosted by the

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the Birmingham Black Radio Museum Project, whose director Bob Friedman described Brian's award-winning study, *Radio and the Struggle for Civil Rights in the South*, as a "terrific book which reminds us how important radio was in the movement for racial justice, not just in Birmingham, but across the whole South."

SPOTLIGHT ON AMERICAN STUDIES RESEARCH

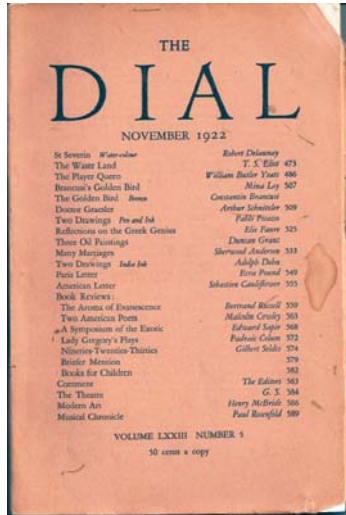
Staff in American Studies at Northumbria can boast a remarkable range of interests and expertise spanning art, film, history, literature, politics and much more besides. There are, however, certain areas where we can claim special strength with a number of colleagues sharing overlapping research interests, which in turn inform their undergraduate teaching and help to attract high calibre postgraduates. For example, we have particular concentrations in the study of the US South, US foreign affairs and diplomacy, gender and sexuality, California, poetry, the interwar years and the 1960s, religion, urban cultures, presidential politics, mass media and popular culture, transatlantic relations, religion, civil rights and black power, race, ethnicity and migration. In this issue of the *Newsletter* we want to throw the spotlight onto two other areas of shared interest: modernism and music.

DIAL M FOR MAGAZINES AND MODERNISM: VICTORIA BAZIN INVESTIGATES THE DIAL MAGAZINE AND THE CULTURES OF THE JAZZ AGE

Like many of the Americanists at Northumbria University, including Ian Davidson, Julie Taylor and Brian Ward, Victoria Bazin, senior lecturer in American Literature, has long been interested in the modernist literature of the early twentieth century. With funding support from the Arts and Humanities Research Board, in 2009 Victoria published *Marianne Moore and the Cultures of Modernity*, a highly acclaimed monograph on the idiosyncratic poet and critic who also edited the influential literary magazine *The Dial* between 1925 and 1929. Her current research project builds on that work to explore the history of *The Dial* in the context of other modernist periodicals and to offer important new perspectives on the cultures of the 'Jazz Age.'

Newsletter: Can you explain the main goals of your new research?

Victoria Bazin: By exploring the contents and contexts of *The Dial* in the 1920s, I think we can see



how the ideas surrounding 'modernism' emerged and, more generally, how culture came to be divided between the 'high-brow' and the 'low-brow'. *The Dial*, with its reputation for being the most high-brow of magazines, is worth examining in detail because it reveals how cultural values take shape, how

writers' reputations are formed and how literary canons are established.

Newsletter: So what kind of magazine was *The Dial*? What kinds of authors and topics did it feature?

VB: Well, *The Dial* was always very eclectic in terms of content. It published a variety of modernisms that crossed the high/low divide ranging from T.S. Eliot's seminal modernist masterpiece *The Waste Land* to appreciations of popular cultural forms such as cartoons, musical theatre and film. It was also transnational in scope and regularly featured work in translation. For example, it was the first magazine to publish Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice* in English. It included Russian writing by Maxim Gorky and Feodor Dostoevsky, French writing by Paul Valéry and Paul Morand and regularly commissioned letters from high profile writers reporting on cultural developments in Germany, Ireland, Hungary, Russia, Spain and Britain. This cosmopolitanism was accompanied by a concern to showcase the best new American writing and art. *The Dial* championed the experiments in poetry by e. e. cummings, William Carlos Williams, Hart Crane and, of course, Marianne Moore, and it celebrated the evocation of small town life in the short stories of Sherwood Anderson. Beyond literary texts, it also reproduced the work of emerging and established American artists such as

John Marin, the cartoonist William Gropper and the nineteenth century painter Winslow Homer.

Newsletter: Finally, how would you sum up the significance of *The Dial* and other periodicals of the period as a focus for study today?

VB: With the revival of interest in the 1920s sparked by the new film of *The Great Gatsby*, these magazines help us to get a much firmer grasp of the dynamic cultural world within which F. Scott Fitzgerald and other writers and artists worked. This was a really exciting, if complex and often contradictory time in the arts, when much of what we think of as the modern world and modern thinking came into being. *The Dial* vividly chronicled that birth.

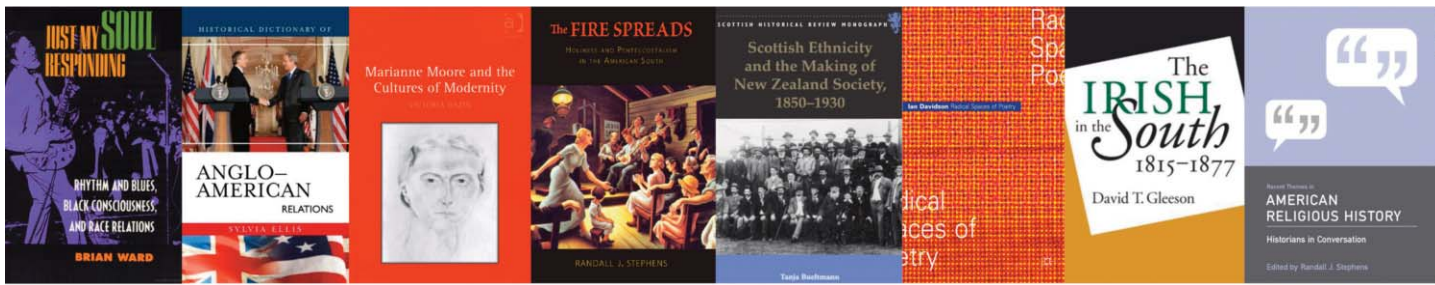
WELL DO YOU LIKE GOOD MUSIC? THE SOUNDS OF AMERICAN STUDIES

From folk songs to the Foo Fighters, from spirituals to Springsteen, from Basie to Jay-Z, from bluegrass to blues, from Scott Joplin to Janice Joplin, from Charles Ives to Chance the Rapper, from Peggy Lee to Jerry Lee, from the Beach Boys to Beach House, from gospel to Ghostface Killah, and from Bing to Beyoncé, the American experience has always



been accompanied by a rich, evocative musical soundtrack. At Northumbria several members of staff are using music and musical cultures to investigate the history and cultures of America in both national and international contexts.

Joe Street, for example, is researching the significance of American soul music in the UK during the 1960s and 1970s, paying particular attention to the reception of the Stax-Volt Revue. Joe also served as a consultant for a television documentary on soul singer Otis Redding that aired in May 2013 on BBC 4.

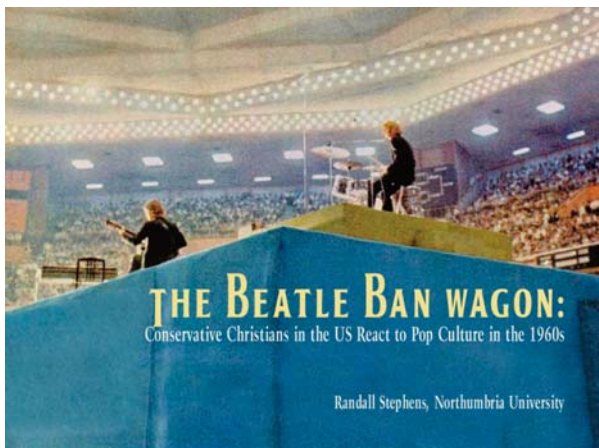


Randall Stephens, erstwhile member of indie-rock giants Jetenderpaul (see the video for “Chinese Mix” at youtube.com/watch?v=4KrKwtScPj4), is currently researching and writing about connections between religion and American popular music, focusing especially on Pentecostal influences in the careers of Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley and on the religious roots of anti-rock sentiments in the 1950s and 1960s. In August Randall Stephens was invited to speak to the University of Oslo Norwegian Student Association of American Studies (NORSAAS). His lecture, “The Beatle Ban Wagon: Conservative Christians in the US React to Pop Culture in the 1960s,” was based on his ongoing research for a book project on

music-related projects. The first looks at the careers of the pre-World War Two A&R (Artists and Repertoire) men who virtually invented the modern Ameri-



Jim Dandy and Brian Ward

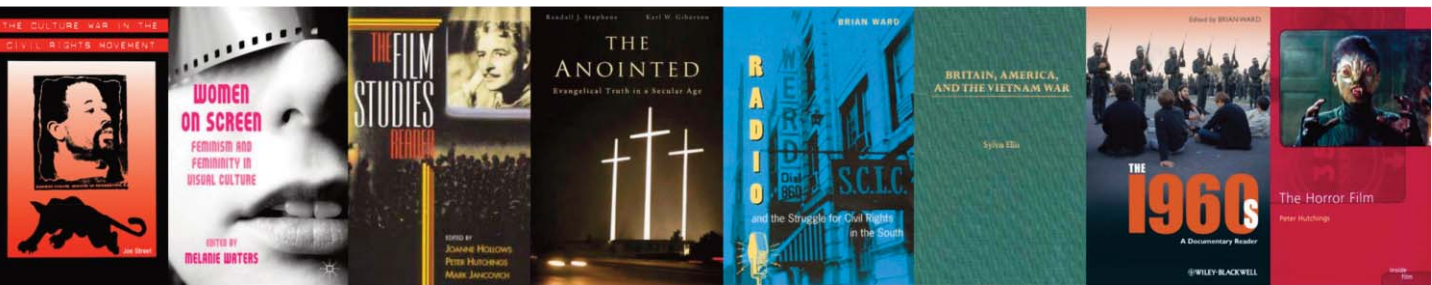


From Stephens' recent talk at the University of Oslo

rock music and religion. The event kicked off the new school year for NORSAAS.

Brian Ward, whose career in unmissed punk contenders Wilton and the Shagpile is best glossed over, has already published extensively on connections between rhythm and blues music and the civil rights and black power movements, notably in *Just My Soul Responding: Rhythm and Blues, Black Consciousness and Race Relations*. At the moment he is working on two

can recording industry, discovering and recording a diverse range of singers and musicians in blues, country and pop idioms. The second project considers connections between the US South and British music from roughly the mid-nineteenth century until the present day. The project takes in topics such as the “southern music” of Yorkshireman Fredrick Delius, the popularity of southern-themed songs and “Dixieland” Jazz in interwar Britain, the experiences of the Beatles, Animals, and Sex Pistols in the American South and the recent popularity of the Kings of Leon. As part of this research, in October 2012, Brian visited Memphis to interview southern rock legend Jim Dandy, lead singer of Black Oak Arkansas, about the significance of the British invasion for southern music and his somewhat hazy memories of touring the UK and hanging out with Keith Richards in the 1970s.



THE YEAR AHEAD: COMING TO AMERICAN STUDIES IN 2013-14

AMERICAN STUDIES SOCIETY

To coincide with the launch of the new American Studies BA, Northumbria now welcomes its first student-run American Studies Society, open to all students and, if they behave themselves, staff who have an interest in things American. You can find out more about the Society's events at <http://mysu.northumbria.ac.uk/studentactivities/societies/a-z-of-societies/americanstudies> or by contacting the Society's President, Josh Buckland at

josh.buckland@northumbria.ac.uk.

AMERICAN STUDIES/US HISTORY GROUP SYMPOSIUM ON "1964: A WATERSHED YEAR?"

In Spring 2014, scholars from Northumbria and beyond will gather to discuss the significance of 1964 from a variety of perspectives. Topics up for discussion include Lyndon Johnson's landslide re-election, the Civil Rights Act, The Gulf of Tonkin incident, Andy Warhol's *The Shot Marilyns*, the Beatles' first US tours, Stanley Kubrick's *Dr Strangelove*, Saul Bellow's *Herzog*, Frank O'Hara's "Lunch Poems", Mississippi Freedom Summer, Bob Dylan's albums *The Times They Are a-Changin'* and *Another Side of Bob Dylan*. Please check the Events section of the American



Andy Warhol being interviewed on television, 1964

Studies website for details as they firm up

EARLY CAREER VISITING SCHOLAR SCHEME

American Studies at Northumbria is pioneering an exciting new scheme to bring an exceptional junior scholar to campus for a few days each year to present their research and get involved in workshops and teaching opportunities with both undergraduates and graduates. This will expose staff and students alike to some of the most cutting edge scholarship in American cultural, historical and literary studies. The first recipient of this award will come to Northumbria in Spring 2014.

LEVERHULME VISITING PROFESSOR MICHAEL DAVIDSON

Thanks mainly to the efforts of Ian Davidson, Professor Michael Davidson is a Leverhulme Visiting Professor at Northumbria University from September 1st to December 31st 2013. Michael is a Distinguished Professor at the University of California San Diego and a critic of international renown whose work encompasses modern American poetry, American cultural studies, gender and disability studies. His publications include *The San Francisco Renaissance: Poetics and Community at Mid-Century*; *Ghostlier Demarcations: Modern Poetry and the Material Word*; *Guys Like Us: Citing Masculinity in Cold War Poetics*; *Concerto for the Left Hand: Disability and the Defamiliar Body*; and *Outskirts of Form: Practicing Cultural Poetics*. He is also a well-known and critically acclaimed poet with a publication record that spans four decades. While at Northumbria, Michael will be involved in a wide range of public events and teaching.

REACHING OUT: AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE NORTH EAST AND BEYOND

At Northumbria, we are strongly committed to making sure that American Studies interacts with and serves local schools, businesses, libraries, archives, galleries, community groups and the general public. This is reflected in our undergraduate programme with its innovative “American Studies in the Community” module which enables students to undertake local work placements that utilize and extend their knowledge of America, but also through the participation of American Studies staff in public events across the region and far beyond. In 2012-13, for example, Joe Street curated a film series on “San Francisco on Film” at the Star and Shadow Cinema in Newcastle. Tanja Bueltmann and David Gleeson co-hosted a series of lectures at the Lit & Phil in Newcastle as part of a major research project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, on “Locating the Hidden Diaspora: The English in North America in Transatlantic Perspective, 1760-1950”—that project also supported a visit to Charleston, South Carolina of the local Hexham Morris folk-dancing troupe as part of an exhibition on English immigrants and English culture in North America. Brian Ward was a keynote speaker for the Claudia Jones Memorial Lecture at the conference of the National Union of Journalists held at Newcastle University, where he spoke on “From Newcastle 1967 to Washington 2009: Martin Luther King and the Election of Barack Obama”. Further afield, Brian also gave public lectures on links between the US South and British pop music at Belmont University, Nashville, and at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in Little Rock.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

We have been working with schools in the region as part of our outreach activities. Our subject specialists visit local schools and sixth form colleges to give

talks to AS and A Level students on American history, literature and politics topics that are on the curriculum for many exam boards. We also offer an annual Workshop for students working towards their exams who are thinking seriously about doing an undergraduate degree. The programme typically includes several short “taster sessions” on subjects



Civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, March 1965, photo courtesy of the Library of Congress

such as twentieth century US literature, America between the wars, the civil rights and black power movements, the US presidency, US foreign policy, as well as short talks on exam preparation and applying to university. Our staff has extensive experience speaking to the broader public and to high school students. For instance, Randall Stephens spent much of his Ful-

bright fellowship in 2012 lecturing to and conducting seminars with high school students and teachers in Norway on American Studies topics such as: “Advertising the American Dream”; “Race, Rock, and Religion in the 1950s”; and “Why is the South so Religious? A Historical Look.”

For more information on how you can take advantage of the expertise available at Northumbria, please contact Dr. Julie Taylor at

julie.taylor@northumbria.ac.uk

WHY STUDY AMERICAN STUDIES AT NORTHUMBRIA?

Intellectually challenging and hugely enjoyable, American Studies is an ideal subject to study at university if you want to learn more about American life and culture, wish to develop your critical, imaginative and communication skills, and have an interest in multi- and inter-disciplinary approaches to studying the American experience and its global significances. In American Studies at Northumbria University you will receive an excellent education in a friendly environment, in partnership with an exceptional collection of internationally acclaimed scholar-teachers. Through a variety of lectures, smaller group semi-



Small sail boats on the Charles River, Boston, Massachusetts, summer 2010. Photo by Randall Stephens.

nars and guided individual study, our staff will help you develop your skills, work towards a successful degree and prepare yourself for life beyond the university. Our commitment to teaching excellence was recognized at the Northumbria Student Union's Student-Led Teaching Awards for 2012-13, where many members of the American Studies staff were commended for their engaging teaching and overall commitment to their students' education.

Employment and Study Abroad

Many careers require self-motivated, creative and ambitious individuals with a dynamic skill set. American Studies graduates are especially valued because of their excellent communication skills and ability to think intelligently, critically and laterally as they draw on a wide range of disciplinary perspectives and skills to analyze and interpret the American experience. The American Studies programme at Northumbria University will enable you to develop into this type of graduate. American Studies graduates are attractive to employers in such fields as teaching, publishing, journalism, cultural administration, advertising, public relations, the civil service, heritage management, social research, non-governmental organizations, public history and the Foreign Office.

As part of the "America in the Community" module

many of our students will take up a work placement with one of our partners, which include the Tyneside Cinema, Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums, the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, the Discovery Museum and the Beamish Museum. Students may also choose to organize a placement with an appropriate employer of their choice. This offers an unrivalled opportunity to apply skills acquired in the degree programme, build a professional curriculum vitae, and prepare for life after university. Students also have the opportunity to spend a period of time studying abroad during their second year. American Studies has established links with a large number of institutions in North America, including the University of Illinois, Georgia State University, the State University of New York, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, York University (Toronto) and Central Michigan University. This exchange programme is covered within the existing tuition fee structure, but in addition Northumbria also offers two competitive Study Abroad bursaries (currently of £1,000) for outstanding American Studies students wishing to study at a North American institution.

For more information on American Studies at Northumbria, please visit us [here](#).

American Studies Research Seminar Series Semester 1, 2013-2014

10 October: **MICHAEL DAVIDSON** (University of California San Diego), "Missing Bodies: Disappearances in the Aesthetic," 5:30pm in the Sutherland Building Board Room

7 November: **VICTORIA BAZIN** (Northumbria University), "*The Dial* Magazine and the Material Spaces of Modernism," 5:30pm in Lipman 232

13 November: **RANDALL STEPHENS** (Northumbria University), "The Religious Roots of Rock Music in the 1950s South," with the History Research Seminar, 5:30pm in Lipman 033

21 November: **IAN SCOTT** (University of Manchester), "Historical Drama or Dramatic History: Oliver Stone and the Politics of Political Filmmaking," 5:30pm at the Star and Shadow Cinema



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