English-Language Works by JAAS Members

2006

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

Endo, Yasuo and Sheila Hones, see Hones, Sheila and Yasuo Endo.


In order to examine the function of the museum as an apparatus that leads trends through discourse, I would like to study two of the most important figures in the history of American photography: John Szarkowski and Garry Winogrand. By analyzing Winogrand’s photographs and Szarkowski’s criticism, which was tremendously affected by Winogrand, I will show that Szarkowski’s discourse enabled us to recognize the tangled problem of the museum’s role.


Narratives of the 1853–4 Perry expedition to Japan have played a key role in the textual negotiation of commonsense understandings of space, place, history, and geopolitics. We use textual analysis of US and Japanese ‘black ships’ stories to read this negotiation in
terms of concepts of proximity and distance.


This paper engages with the concept of the “international” by envisioning the International American Studies Association not as the top layer in a space of scales but as an academic event-space made up of non-local sites of interaction in which all members are equally co-present in the ‘here’ and ‘now.’


Arguing that different ways of naming, framing and mapping space render different aspects of American studies subject matter visible and knowable, this paper experiments with the application of geographical theory to American studies practice. It focuses in particular on David Harvey’s understanding of space as simultaneously absolute, relative, and relational.


A recent series of attempts by some liberal states to legalize the rights for same-sex couples has heated the debate. At the federal level, the Clinton administration enacted the Defense of Marriage Act and the issue also became the focus of the 2004 presidential election. This article treats the historical legalization of homosexuality from crime to private right, and the political and cultural arguments on same-sex marriage.


This article develops a theoretical model of asymmetric coercive bargaining, and uses it to explain why North Korea took risky aggressive actions toward both the United States and the Soviet Union from the late 1960s to the present. It highlights that North Korea’s risky behavior is more likely when its external security circumstances deteriorate.


This article analyzes South Korea’s so-called “Nordpolitik (northern policy)” as a case of a weaker state’s positive sanctions toward more powerful ones, and attempts to derive from the case implications for successful positive sanctions. It reveals that political posi-
tive sanctions worked more effectively toward China, while economic positive sanctions were fundamental in achieving the breakthrough in ROK-USSR relations.


This article provides an analysis of the rhetorical strategies used by President John F. Kennedy in his attempts to enforce federal court orders for public school desegregation and protecting black Americans’ civil rights, shedding light on Kennedy’s almost tortuous vicissitude of learning and maturing to define and redefine the proper place of civil rights in his presidency.


This paper examines the activism of American Jews to abolish segregated education during the late 1940s. During this period, Jews were involved in litigation to desegregate the schools in the South, which had been launched by the NAACP, and filed *amicus curiae* briefs against several graduate and law school cases preceding *Brown* on behalf of the black plaintiffs. This could reveal one phase of the “color-blind” orientation of Jews in the United States.


This essay studies two pairs of framed ghost stories by Henry James and F. Marion Crawford. It examines how in the stories the two authors not only experiment with the supernatural genre, but also explore deeper, prohibited issues related to gender and sexuality by taking advantage of the narrative ambiguity produced by the frame device.


This essay argues that there is a distinction between the geographical term “place” and the literary term “setting.” Using examples from Stein’s novella, it examines how the place of the text is created through the characters and their relations, rather than through reference to any real-world, verifiable points on a map.


This study investigates stories of the *New York Times* and the *Asahi* during the run-up
period of the Iraq War. The content analysis of their articles finds that the two allies have quite distinctive treatments of the War during the period, especially rationalization of the cause of the War, and role and the power of the United Nations.


This work compares newspaper stories of “embedded” journalists during the War in Iraq between the *Asahi* and the *New York Times*. The results show that journalists from the two papers presented quite different views of the war, including evaluations of the everyday developments in battalions, and journalists’ sympathy with members of the units with which they were embedded.


“Children’s literature” in 19th century America was a political discourse, which aimed at “a happy wedding of reformism and nationalism.” Hawthorne’s *Grandfather’s Chair* is seemingly a faithful response to this demand of the literary marketplace, however, the story of the chair’s ownership reveals the cultural degeneration of the venerable American history.


This paper examines the formation process of the American concept of “Japanese art” in the 19th century. Japan was first discovered as a country of exotic decorative objects through the descriptions of travel narratives and then in the texts of art specialists. Both texts examined “Japanese art” from the ethnological point of view and imagined it as exotic ethnic art.


This paper demonstrates the impact of researching the representation of the voices of Japanese women living in the United States. It seeks to reveal the socio-political, cultural, and power relationships imposed on Japanese immigrant women and the involvement of the women in these cultural politics through a study of the immigrant media between 1914 and 1924.

This study examines the trans-Pacific activism of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union and its overseas affiliates, particularly the Japanese union. It reveals how the women of Asia and the West promoted dialogue through international networks of the WCTU and other women’s organizations during the inter-war period.


This paper examines the ways in which GHQ attempted to use Laura Ingalls Wilder’s *The Long Winter* in the *Little House* books as propaganda for inculcating American, western discourse in Japan after WWII. This paper illustrates how the children’s book wielded considerable influence on the process of Japanese democratization in the postwar era.


This paper demonstrates how U.S. interest group politics affected Japanese health insurance during the American occupation after World War II. It concludes that largely because of the pressure from the American Medical Association, health insurance reform in Japan became more conservative than initially anticipated.


This paper analyzes the interest among African American students toward Japan and its culture. After they started taking Japan-related courses, how did they change their perspectives on Japan? The questionnaires on this issue to about 300 black students and interviews with some of them show that multicultural awareness and sensitivity was promoted among young African Americans while they learned about and experienced Japanese culture.

**ARTICLES IN BOOKS**

Kan, Hideki. “War and Remembrance in East Asia,” *The Community of Asia: Con-

The article analyzes the influences of the Cold War on public memory of the Asia-Pacific War as well as the ongoing struggle for competing national identities and public memories of the war in Japan. Noting that maturing of civil societies among East Asian countries will be important in promoting mutual understanding and historical reconciliation, it points to an expanding transnational space and a possibility of transnational history in this region.


During America’s civil rights years in the 1950s and 1960s, southern white segregationists defied federally mandated civil rights policies, waging the region’s massive resistance. This article analyzes how southern white politicians and officials used and abused the resurrected theory of states’ rights constitutionalism, or the doctrine of interposition, in carrying out their resistance movement.

BOOKS


This book traces the genesis and escalation of Japanese-American naval confrontation by examining the influence of Mahan’s strategic doctrines on the Japanese navy. It concludes that the “ghost of Alfred T. Mahan hung over the leaders of the Japanese navy as they prepared for the Pearl Harbor attack.”


This entirely bilingual publication chronicles a symposium of the Japanese American Leadership Delegation held in Nagoya in March 2006. It records personal testimonies of five Japanese American leaders, including noted playwright Philip Kan Gotanda, on how they have established their careers in the multiracial setting of contemporary U.S. society. The editor contributes a chapter which introduces the reader to historical and demographic backgrounds of Japanese Americans in the third and fourth generations.

This dissertation explores Toni Morrison’s dialogue with black and white writers over the issue of black modern subjectivities. In the critical framework of ethnic modernism, a product of the correlative configuration of 1920s cultural pluralism and ongoing multiculturalism arguments since the 1980s, the expressivity of black modernity is investigated in her works published since the late 1970s.


This thesis examines the social and economic history of the Japanese-American community in Kona, Hawai‘i, from the late 19th century to the present. One of the distinctive features of this community is that many of its founders were so-called ‘twice-migrants.’ I argue that a keen awareness of their shared experience as twice-migrants has played a significant role in the preservation of their long-lasting and semi-independent diaspora.


This thesis investigates the articulation of the voices of Japanese women in the U.S. in the Japanese immigrant media between 1914 and 1924 with particular regard to the idea of “home.” It reveals the complex process of forming the voices, which reflected and constructed a changing racial and transnational context for Japanese women in the U.S.


This dissertation analyzes the economic effects of the domestic slave trade and the slave traders in the American South in a broader Atlantic context. It interprets the trade as a sophisticated business and traders as speculative, entrepreneurial businessmen. Slave trade played a central role in determining the fate of the South, as a business that created a unified South under proslavery ideology and encouraged western migration to preserve the institution of slavery. The skills, awareness and commercial networks established from the slave-trading business allowed traders to acquire managerial abilities and the ethos associated with nascent global capitalism in the early 19th century.

This dissertation asks why Japan and the United States adopted different health insurance systems during World War II and the postwar reconstruction. It argues that the differences in each country’s wartime experience largely influenced what kind of health insurance system Japan and the United States adopted.