



American Studies International Conference

September 11-13, 2008

Stewart Center • Purdue University

*American
Studies and
Imperial
Designs:
New Scholarship
and Perspectives
on the U.S. in
the World*

Welcome

On September 11th 2001 the world entered into a fundamentally changed relationship to U.S. power and imperialism. The airplane attacks on New York's World Trade Centers were variously observed, debated and interpreted, but no one then or since has questioned that the event threw nearly one hundred years of often unself-conscious U.S. empire-building into a stage of critical self-reflection, re-expansion and crisis.

This conference has been called seven years after to assess the state of that crisis, particularly as it is lived out and experienced among those within and without the United States who refuse to submit their name to U.S. imperial expansion. "What is to be done" is not just the theme of the conference's closing panel but the underlying question facing scholars, academics and activists still confronting nearly a decade after 9/11 a war waged in its name, national and global revocation of civil liberties, renewed forms and practices of racism, deepening and sustained Islamophobia and a global economic crisis. The conference is meant to provide participants with a set of windows and questions onto these matters with the hope of moving towards understanding, organizing and resolution. We gather here in the name of seeking and redistributing new forms of social justice and new hopes for ameliorating violence and brutality. We hold our conversations, meetings and social gatherings, in the purposeful spirit of seeking a better world.

We hope that three days of reflection and commentary, debate and dialogue, new ideas and provocations, will move us closer to that objective.

We wish you a warm welcome and spirited stay here at Purdue.

Sincerely,

*The American Studies Program at Purdue University and
The American Studies and Imperial Designs Organizing Committee:*

Rich Hogan, Professor of Sociology/American Studies, Purdue

Anne Knupfer, Professor of Educational Studies, Purdue

Bill Mullen, Professor of English/Director of American Studies, Purdue

Harry Targ, Professor of Political Science/American Studies, Purdue

At-A-Glance

The conference will be held in Stewart Center. Each Session is 90 minutes in length with the exception of the Plenaries which are an hour and 45 minutes each. Lunches on Friday and Saturday are on your own and are from Noon to 1:30 p.m. A buffet dinner included with registration will be provided Friday evening at 6:30 prior to Amy Kaplan's keynote address. Coffee will be available starting at 8:30 a.m. in STEW 313. Coffee and other refreshments will be available there during afternoon breaks.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

5:00-7:00 p.m. **Registration** • STEW 206

7:30 p.m. **Plenary I** • STEW 206

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

8:00-10:00 a.m. **Registration** • STEW 320

8:30 a.m. **Session I**

Panel 1 • STEW 320

Panel 2 • STEW 318

10:15 a.m. **Plenary II** • STEW 314

Noon Lunch *on your own*

1:30 p.m. **Session II**

Panel 3 • STEW 318

Panel 4 • STEW 320

Panel 5 • STEW 314

3:15 p.m. **Plenary III** • STEW 314

6:30 p.m. **Dinner** • STEW 302 & 306

7:30 p.m. Amy Kaplan **Keynote Address** • STEW 314

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

8:30 a.m. **Session I**

Panel 6 • STEW 320

Panel 7 • STEW 318

10:15 a.m. **Plenary IV** • STEW 314

Noon Lunch *on your own*

1:30 p.m. **Session II**

Panel 8 • STEW 318

Panel 9 • STEW 320

Panel 10 • STEW 314

3:15 p.m. **Plenary V** • STEW 314

Keynote Speaker

Amy Kaplan
University of
Pennsylvania



*In the Name of
Homeland Security*

7:30 p.m. STEW 314

Amy Kaplan received her Ph.D. from The Johns Hopkins University, with a specialty in late-nineteenth-century American literature. Working in the interdisciplinary field of American studies, she teaches courses on the culture of imperialism, comparative perspectives on the Americas, and mourning, memory and violence. Her first book, *The Social Construction of American Realism*, was published by the University of Chicago (1988). She co-edited with Donald Pease, *Cultures of U. S. Imperialism* (Duke, 1993). Her latest book, *The Anarchy of Empire in the Making of U.S. Culture*, was published by Harvard University Press in 2002. She has received an NEH Fellowship and the Norman Forster prize for the best essay in American Literature in 1998 for "Manifest Domesticity." She has published recent essays on 9/11 and Guantanamo and is currently working on the language and culture of empire today. She was president of the American Studies Association in 2003.

Plenary Sessions

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

7:30-10:00 p.m. **Plenary I** • STEW 206

Hijacking Catastrophe: The Legacy of 9/11 for American Scholars and Activists Seven Years Later

Film Screening *Hijacking Catastrophe*
All Conference Discussion

Welcome: Bill V. Mullen, Director of American Studies, Purdue University

Moderator: Harry Targ, Professor of Political Science, Purdue University

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

10:15 a.m.-Noon **Plenary II** • STEW 314

Rethinking Critical Pedagogy and Praxis in the Era of Globalization

Education Against Imperialism: Values, Praxis and Curriculum

Nathalia Jaramillo, Department of Cultural Foundations, Purdue University

Educational Praxis, Transformation and Critical Inter-culturality

A.G. Rud, Department of Cultural Foundations, Purdue University

Reverence, Solidarity, and Resistance

Nadine Dolby, Department of Curriculum Studies, Purdue University

Respondent: Anne Knupfer, Department of Cultural Foundations, Purdue University

3:15-5:00 p.m.

Plenary III • STEW 314

Hegemony and Resistance: Global Political Economy in the 21st Century

Moderator: Harry Targ, Department of Political Science/American Studies, Purdue University

Political and Economic Consequences of the Changing Global Economy

Harry Targ, Department of Political Science/American Studies, Purdue University

Migration and the Global Economy: The Caribbean Case

Nathasha Duncan, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science, Purdue University

Globalization and Neoliberalism:

Resistance Movements in Latin America

Viviana Abreu, Executive Director, Puerto Rican Council on Higher Education

Indigenous Movements in Ecuador and International Solidarity

Beth Willford, Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology, Purdue University

6:30 p.m.

Buffet **Dinner** • STEW 302 & 306

7:30 p.m.

Amy Kaplan, University of Pennsylvania.

Keynote Address, "In the Name of Homeland Security" • STEW 314

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

10:15 a.m.-Noon **Plenary IV** • STEW 314

Technologies of Contemporary US Imperialism

Moderator: Bill Mullen, Director, American Studies, Purdue

The Imperial Playlist

Harilos Stecopoulos, University of Iowa

Beauty Without Borders and other Feminisms

Malini Johar Schueller, University of Florida

The Ecology of Imperialism

Ashley Dawson, Graduate Center, City University of New York and at the College of Staten Island

3:15-5:00 p.m.

Plenary V • STEW 314

What is to be Done? Imperial Designs and the Future of Academia

Moderator: Bill V. Mullen, Director of American Studies, Purdue University

Rich Hogan, Department of Sociology, Purdue University

Alex Lubin, Department of American Studies, University of New Mexico

Valentine Moghadam, Director, Women's Studies, Purdue University

Malini Johar Schueller, Professor of English, University of Florida

Erik C. Wade, Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies, Purdue University

Panel Sessions • Friday

8:30a.m.

Session I

Panel 1 • STEW 320

Legitimizing Ideologies: What "American" Means

Moderator: Bill Mullen, Director of American Studies, Purdue University

The Rise of Transnationality in America Studies: The Legacy of British Cultural Studies
Cem Ceyhan, Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies, Purdue University

Minding the Gaps: Implications of Participatory Media Models for American Exceptionalism and Other Societal Disconnections

Michelle Carreon, Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies, Purdue University

Navigating the Culture Wars in Romania and the United States: Teaching Ethnic Studies Transnationally

Ruxandra Radulescu, Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies, Purdue University

Panel 2 • STEW 318

Imperialism as Dehumanization: The Case of Abu Ghraib

Moderator: Stephen David, Assistant Dean, College of Education

Talking War and Making Enemies: Dehumanizing Metaphors in the War on Terror

Erin Steuter, Head, Sociology Department, Mount Allison University

Imperial Roots of Abu Ghraib Prison Abuse

Arslan Jumaniyazov, M.A. Candidate in American Studies, Purdue University

10:15 a.m.-Noon

Plenary II • STEW 314

Rethinking Critical Pedagogy and Praxis in the Era of Globalization

Education Against Imperialism: Values, Praxis and Curriculum

Nathalia Jaramillo, Department of Cultural Foundations, Purdue University

Educational Praxis, Transformation and Critical Inter-culturality

A.G. Rud, Department of Cultural Foundations, Purdue University

1:30 p.m.

Reverence, Solidarity, and Resistance
Nadine Dolby, Department of Curriculum Studies, Purdue University

Respondent: Anne Knupfer, Department of Cultural Foundations, Purdue University

Session II

Panel 3 • STEW 318

Economic Returns?: Imperial Designs in Central Asia

Moderator: Harry Targ, Department of Political Science/Program in American Studies, Purdue University

The Return of Polygamy to Central Asia: Male Resistance, Female Accommodation, and Other Practical Necessities When an Imperial, Hegemonic Power Comes Knocking

Clyde Forsberg, Department of American Studies, Fatih University.

Shifting Role of U.S. Foreign Policy in Central Asia: Greater Central Asia Partnership

Selbi Hanava, Department of American Studies, American University-Central Asia

Panel 4 • STEW 320

Imperial Imaging/Imaginings: Representations of Mexico, and Central and Latin America

Moderator: Antonio Tillis, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Purdue University

Prosthetic Imaginings, or Mexico as Phantom Pains from the Death of the West

Lee Bebout, Department of English, Sam Houston State University

Let Them Eat Cake: Examination of U.S. Imperialism in the Dominican Republic as Witnessed in the Popular Fiction of Julia Alvarez

Roberta Barki, Department of English, University of Texas-San Antonio

What's Left in the Immigration Debate?
Michael Hale, Independent Scholar and Activist

Panel 5 • STEW 314

Power to the People? The Civil Rights Movement and Identity Formation

Moderator: Venetria Patton, Director of African American Studies, Purdue University

The Legacy of Power: Revolutionary Nationalism and the Post-Soul

Rychetta Watkins, William Jewell College

History of the Civil Rights Movement for the Physically Disabled in the United States

David T. Pletcher, University of North Carolina Greensboro

6:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

My Story is Your Story: Gayl Jones's Corregidora and the Civil Rights Movement

Philathia Bolton, Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies, Purdue University

Buffet **Dinner** • STEW 302 & 306

Amy Kaplan, University of Pennsylvania.
Keynote Address, "In the Name of

Panel Sessions • Saturday

8:30a.m.

Homeland Security" • STEW 314

Session I

Panel 6 • STEW 320

Historical Amnesia: Enacting Imperialism through Commemoration

Moderator: Robert Marzec, Department of English, Purdue University

Toward a Genealogy of the U.S. Colonial Present

Alyosha Goldstein, Department of English and Program in American Studies, University of New Mexico

An Empire of Sacrifice: The Religious Origins of American Violence

Jon Pahl

From Postmodernism to Modernization:

Americanization and Management Theory

Sarika Chandra, Department of English, Wayne State University

Panel 7 • STEW 318

Whose Culture(s)?: Resistance and Accommodation in Art and Cinema

Moderator: Lance Duerfahrd, Department of English, Purdue University

American Exceptionalism, American Imperialism, and the History of American Art

Alan Wallach, Art and Art History and American Studies, The College of William and Mary

Resistance and Affirmation: Luis Jimenez, the Southwest Pieta, and the Reshaping of History

Eric Castillo, Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies, University of New Mexico.

300

Melissa Peck, Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies, Purdue University.

10:15 a.m.-Noon

Plenary IV • STEW 314

Technologies of Contemporary US Imperialism

Moderator: Bill Mullen, Director, American Studies, Purdue

The Imperial Playlist

Harilos Stecopoulos, University of Iowa

Beauty Without Borders and other Feminisms

Malini Johar Schueller, University of Florida

The Ecology of Imperialism

Ashley Dawson, Graduate Center, City University of New York and at the College of Staten Island

1:30 p.m.

Session II

Panel 8 • STEW 318

Imperialism and Agency in Literary Productions

Moderator: Al Lopez, Department of English, Purdue University

Radiating Wastes: U.S. Imperialism and House of Many Gods

Kathleen Flanagan, Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Disruptive Female Agency: A Fanonian Reading of Imperialist Influence in Buchi Emecheta's The Joys of Motherhood (1979) and Tsitsi Dangarembga's Nervous Conditions (1988)

K. Vivian Taylor, PhD student, Department of English and Program in Film Theory and Subversive Sexualities, University of South Florida

Colonial Comparisons: Internal Colonies and America's Empire of Liberty

Alex Lubin, Department of American Studies, University of New Mexico.

*Maya Angelou's Internationalisms:
Revisiting the Anti-Colonialism of African-
American Women Writers*

Cheryl Higashida, Department of English
University of Colorado at Boulder

Panel 9 • STEW 320

*UnManifest Destinies: Revisioning the
Frontier*

Moderator: Anne Knupfer, Department of
Educational Studies, Purdue University

*It Did Happen Here: Anti-Imperial Memory in
the California Popular Front*

Benjamin Balthaser, PhD Candidate, Department
of Literature, University of California San Diego

*A Military Job from Beginning to End:
Dashiell Hammett, Noir, and the Context of
Global War*

Steve Carter, PhD Candidate, Department of
Literature, University of California, Santa Cruz

*Punitive Expeditions on the Shifting Frontiers
of U.S. Empire*

Katharine Bjork, Department of History and Global
Studies, Hamline University

Panel 10 • STEW 314

*Transcending the Imperial Model: Rethinking
19th-century German-American Literature*

Moderator: Kris Bross, Associate Professor of
English, Purdue University

Elyssas Tardif, Department of English, Purdue
University

*Nativeness and Foreignness in Charles
Sealsfield's Tokeah*

Allison Hutton, Department of English, Purdue
University

White Sister(s)

Brian Yothers, Department of English, University of
Texas El Paso

*Friendship and the Language of Travel in
Tokeah*

Respondent: Kris Bross, Associate Professor of
English, Purdue University

3:15-5:00 p.m.

Plenary V • STEW 314

*What is to be Done? Imperial Designs and
the Future of Academia*

Moderator: Bill V. Mullen, Director of American
Studies, Purdue University

Rich Hogan, Department of Sociology, Purdue
University

Alex Lubin, Department of American Studies,
University of New Mexico

Valentine Moghadam, Director, Women's Studies,
Purdue University

Malini Johar Schueller, Professor of English,
University of Florida

Erik C. Wade, Ph.D. Candidate in American
Studies, Purdue University