IMAGING AMERICA
THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
GREAT LAKES AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

March 19–21, 2009
McKenna Hall
University of Notre Dame

Sponsored by the Notre Dame Department of American Studies
“Imaging America” evokes themes fundamental to the discipline of American studies and representative of some of the most current research in the field. The conference will consider how America is pictured, configured, and imagined on multiple levels.

Keynote Addresses:

Phil Deloria, Professor of History, University of Michigan, and current president of the American Studies Association

Shawn Michelle Smith, Associate Professor of Visual and Critical Studies, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

The conference will also feature free film showings, a reception at the Northern Indiana Center for History, and numerous panels and roundtable sessions.

“Imaging America” is made possible in part by generous support from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, College of Arts and Letters, and University of Notre Dame

All events are scheduled in McKenna Hall unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, March 19
3–5 p.m. Registration Opens
5–6 p.m. Film Presentation
Jewish Women in American Sport: Settlement Houses to the Olympics
Chair: John Soares, University of Notre Dame
Discussion: Linda J. Borish, Western Michigan University
6–7 p.m. Opening Reception

Friday, March 20
8–9 a.m. Registration
Continental Breakfast
9:00–10:30 a.m. Concurrent Panels

Panel 1: Filmic Visions of America
Chair: Yael Prizant, University of Notre Dame
Maria Paz G. Esguerra, University of Michigan
Seeing “Yellow,” Seeing Gender: Performing Race, Gender, and Americanism in Rodger & Hammerstein’s The Flower Drum Song
Robert LeVertis Bell Jr., University of Michigan
New Dawn Fades: Robocop, Riot, Ruin, and Post-Diluvian Detroit
Jason Ruiz, University of Notre Dame
Desiring and Erasing Difference: Race in Disney’s “Good Neighbor” Films

Panel 2: Photographic Affect and the American Scene
Chair: Heidi Ardizzone, University of Michigan
Anne P. Rice, Lehman College, City University of New York
“There is No More Time”: Marion Palfi’s Forgotten Anti-Lynching Photography
Andrea Gustavson, University of Texas at Austin
Second Sights: Attempting to Re-image and Re-imagine the Documentary Photography of the Great Depression
Ray Sapirstein, State University of New York at Albany
The Man at the Filling Station: Assessing Walker Evans’ Regard for African Americans

Michael R. Freeman, Durango College
The Photographic Melancholy of the 20th Century American Landscape, From Walker Evans to Joel Sternfeld

Panel 3: Textual Form in 20th Century Literature
Chair: Jacque Brogan, University of Notre Dame
Sandra L. Dedo, University of Notre Dame
Structuring the Frame: Susan Howe’s Architectural Poetics

Yvonne Gaspar, University of Notre Dame
Moving Edges; Moving Organs: Tracing Transplants Within the Work of Luis Alfaro

Michelle B. Gaffey, Duquesne University
“Gather[ing] up the fragments that / remain, that nothing be lost”: The Radical Documentary Poetics of Chris Llewellyn’s Fragments From the Fire

Panel 4: American Foodways
Chair: Meredith Chesson, University of Notre Dame
Nathan Crook, Bowling Green State University, Ohio
America’s Best Wurst: Imagining Food as Community Identity

Matthew Stiffer, University of Michigan
Selling ‘Arab’ at Church: The Deployment of Orientalist Imagery in Food Festival Advertisements in the Antiochian Orthodox Church

Damon Talbott, University of Kansas
Continuities in Mapping America as Food Regions

10:30–11 a.m. Coffee break

11–12:30 p.m. Concurrent Panels

Panel 5: 19th Century America in Image and Text
Chair: Sandra Gustafson, University of Notre Dame
Barbara E. Martinson, University of Minnesota
Mapping Life: 19th Century American Stages of Life Prints

Robert Arbour, Indiana University
Re-imaging Herman Melville: Sentimental Art and the Intertextual Landscape of Battle-Pieces

Panel 6: American Icons
Chair: Jason Ruiz, University of Notre Dame
Lara Kuykendall, University of Kansas
Amber Waves of Grain: Wheat as American Icon

Lauren Nickas, University of Notre Dame
“The Lord’s Lady Liberty:” Race, Religion, and Patriotism in the Modern U.S.

Holly Markowitz, Boston University
Set in Stone: Deborah Bright’s Plymouth Rock

Panel 7: Making Political Images
Chair: Laurie Arnold, University of Notre Dame
Katherine E. Ellison, Western Michigan University
Brunch with Barry Goldwater: Representing Women’s Citizenship in Presidential Campaign Advertisements, 1952-2008

Elisabeth Ross, Northwestern University
Equipment in the Picture: Looking at Political Image-Making

Panel 8: Performing American Identity
Chair: Eugene Halton, University of Notre Dame
Anthony Esposito, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
Kelly Pavlik: The Ghost and His Link to the Youngstown Community

Annie Coleman, Indiana University–Purdue University, Indianapolis
Race Time: The Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Lindsay J. Haney, University of Notre Dame.
“American Skin”: Bruce Springsteen’s Framing of America

12:30–2 p.m. Lunch

Workshop for Graduate Students
2–3:30 p.m. Concurrent Panels

**Panel 9: Imaging Indians**

**Chair:** Jon Coleman, University of Notre Dame

Erica E. Hansen, University of Notre Dame

*Eldridge Ayer Burbanks and Images of “Authentic” American Indians*

Nancy R. Palm, Indiana University

*Thomas Cole's Vanishing Indian and the Myth of an Empty Continent*

Christian P. Knoeller, Purdue University, West Lafayette

*Composing Identities on the Frontier: Audubon’s Foray into “Indian Country”*

**Panel 10: Re-Imaging Gender**

**Chair:** Gail Bederman, University of Notre Dame

Philis Barragán, University of Texas at Austin

*Women and Filmmaking in the 1970s: The Directing Workshop for Women*

Aaron Wayne McCullough, University of Michigan

*Shopping for Masculinity: The Cosmopolitan Interiors of William McGregor Paxton*

Whitney Young, St. Mary’s College

*Transforming Selves: Gender Identity in the Lives of Transgender Men*

**Panel 11: Revisioning America**

**Chair:** Jay Skelton, University of Notre Dame

Mindy H. Tan, Purdue University

*Imag(in)ing America in the Art of Zach Medler*

Anthony A. Harkins, Western Kentucky University

*The Construction of “Flyover Country”: Pictorial Maps and the Reimagining of American Cultural Geography*

Samantha Johnson, Rutgers University

*Small Town America: Cold War Heritage Tourism and the Miniature Village*

**Panel 12: Imaging Urban America**

**Chair:** Ben Giamo, University of Notre Dame

Drew Lyness, University of Wyoming

*Pathologising Poverty: The Cartoonisation of American Homelessness*

Jane E. Rose, Purdue University North Central, Westville

*Imaging Urban America in Ana Castillo’s Peel My Love Like an Onion: Social Dysfunction and the American Dream*

Ruth D. Reichard, Indiana University

*Curbs: Environmental Control, Social Control*

Laura R. Barraclough, Kalamazoo College

*“Country Folks”: Negotiating White Privilege in Los Angeles Through the Image of the Cowboy*

4:15 p.m. Bus transport to Northern Indiana Center for History

5–6 p.m. **Keynote Address:**

Phil Deloria, University of Michigan

*Imagining America from the Inside/Outside*

6–7 p.m. Reception, Northern Indiana Center for History

Evening Dinner (on your own in downtown South Bend)

Saturday, March 21

8–9 a.m. **Registration Opens**

Continental Breakfast

9–10:30 a.m. Concurrent Panels

**Panel 13: Hidden in Plain Sight: The Troubled Status of Visual Archives**

**Chair:** Erika Doss, University of Notre Dame

Kristine Ronan, University of Michigan

*Hotel Astor’s Indian Hall and “Photograph #99”: A Case Study in Photographic Flexibility*

Allison Carr, University of Michigan

*A Remarkable Surface: The Photograph as Specimen in Antebellum Natural History*

Alexander Olson, University of Michigan

*History in the Walls: Architecture and Ekphrasis in Middlesex*

Alexander Beringer, University of Michigan

*“Read Between the Lines”: Conspiracy Narrative as Archival Vision in Caesar’s Column*
Panel 14: Imaging American Citizenship
Chair: Susan Ohmer, University of Notre Dame

Sarah Conrad Gothie, University of Michigan
How to Raise an American: Parenting, Anxiety, and Patriotic Citizenship

Rachel Donaldson, Vanderbilt University
"Of, By and For the American People": Alan Lomax, Moses Asch and Musical Education

Annelise K. Madsen, Stanford University
For American Eyes: The Massachusetts State House Murals and a National Art for Progressive-Era Citizens

Jill Gibson, Western Michigan University
Pictured Spatial Reform: Little Rock Housing Authority’s Landscape Photography

Panel 15: Imaging American Religious Identity
Chair: Gretchen Buggeln, Valparaiso University

Tim Gloege, University of Notre Dame
Lyman Stewart, The Fundamentals, and the Imaging of an American “Orthodoxy”

John M. Taylor, Indiana University–Purdue University, Indianapolis
Jewish Jesters: Jewish Identity and Stand-Up Comedy in the 1950s

Kathleen Sprows Cummings, University of Notre Dame
Catholic Saints and the Re-Imaging of American Identity

Panel 16: Mexican and Latino Labor, Migration, and Immigration
Chair: Jose G. Moreno, Michigan State University

Jose G. Moreno
The Historical Foundation of Mexican and Latino Migration, Labor, and Immigration Settlements in the State of Michigan, 1900-2008

Dennis Valdes, Michigan State University
The Labor Movement, the Bracero Program and the Organizational Struggle in Agriculture, 1942-1945

Luis H. Moreno, Michigan State University
Growers v. Workers: The Ventura County California Citrus (Lemon) Strike of 1941

Panel 17: Inside The Handy Writers’ Colony
Chair: Valerie Sayers, University of Notre Dame

Film presentation: Inside the Handy Writers’ Colony (2008)
Comments: Dawn Shapiro, director

Chair: Donna DeBlasio, Youngstown State University

Donna DeBlasio, Youngstown State University
Building a Company Town: The Development of McDonald, Ohio

Martha I. Pallante, Youngstown State University
A Well Organized Place to Work: Scientific Management at the Niles Fire Brick Company

Thomas Leary, Youngstown State University
Work and Technology in the 8” Bar Mill at McDonald, Ohio

Panel 19: Narrating Illness in Contemporary America
Chair: Jane Schultz, Indiana University–Purdue University, Indianapolis

Tegan Rieske, Indiana University–Purdue University, Indianapolis
Self, Narrative, and Alzheimer’s Disease: Rescuing the Personal Through Collaboration

Jill Kauffman, Indiana University–Purdue University, Indianapolis
The Vigil of Breaking and Decay: The Prose Poetics of Illness

Emily K. Krueger, Indiana University–Purdue University, Indianapolis
Physician-Patient Relationships: The Variables of Beneficence, Autonomy, and Trust

Panel 20: Entertaining Images
Chair: Collin Meissner, University of Notre Dame

Dylan Miner, Michigan State University
Class v. Nation: Reframing Chicana/o Cultural History

10:30–11 a.m.
Coffee Break

11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Concurrent Panels
Amy Karwoski, University of Notre Dame  
*Selling Civil Science: Deception and Democracy in the Promotional Posters of P.T. Barnum*

Andrew Nesi, University of Notre Dame  
*The Changing Nature of Disney: Dollar Bills, Dark Magic and the Natural World*

Eileen Zander, University of Notre Dame  
*Bucking the Norm: Men, Mavericks, and the American Imagination*

12:30–1:30 p.m.  
**Lunch**

**GLASA Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony**

1:30–3 p.m.  
**Concurrent Panels**

**Panel 21: Cultures of Transnationalism**  
**Chair:** Sophie White, University of Notre Dame

Brenda Beza, University of Texas at Austin  
*Border Crossings in Lotería Imagery*

Sophie White, University of Notre Dame  
*Geographies of Slave Consumption: Transnational Early America and A World of Things*

Sandra Gustafson, University of Notre Dame  
*James Fenimore Cooper’s Cosmopolitan Nationalism*

**Panel 22: Imaging World War II**  
**Chair:** Debra-White Stanley, Indiana University–Purdue University, Indianapolis

Susan Ohmer, University of Notre Dame  
*Imaging “America”: Nation and Citizenship in Disney Films During World War II*

Brian Carso, Misericordia University  
*Robert Capa’s Existential Soldier: Image and Meaning in World War II Photographs*

Elissa Yukiko Weichbrodt, Washington University, St. Louis  
*Visibly American: Assertions of Agency in Dorothea Lange’s Internment Photographs*

**Panel 23: Representing Working-Class Masculinity in Post-Industrial America**  
**Chair:** Kristin Hass, University of Michigan

Wendy Michael, University of Michigan  
*The Ford Rouge Tour: Labor on Display*

Steve Wisniewski, University of Michigan  
*Friendly Ghosts and Unemployed Horses: Anamorphic Displays at Flint, Michigan’s AutoWorld*

Aimee Von Bokel, University of Michigan  
*Murder and Masculinity in Country Music: Troy Gentry’s Attempt to Perform the Strenuous Life*

**Panel 24: Like Nothing in This World**  
**Chair:** Collin Meissner, University of Notre Dame

Ben Giamo, University of Notre Dame  
*Here, There & Elsewhere: Dylan’s Protean Style*

Collin Meissner, University of Notre Dame  
*Memory, Meaning, and Howling Space: American Literature in an Age of Terror*

Lou Pignatelli, University of Notre Dame  
*Countershocks and Counternarratives*

**Panel 25: Gendered Performances of Labor**  
**Chair:** Pam Wojcik, University of Notre Dame

Gail Bederman, University of Notre Dame  
*Ashtrays, Swizzlesticks, Salt-shakers and Figurines: Pregnancy and Humor in Mid 20th Century Material Culture*

Amanda H. Littauer, St. Mary’s College  
*“Misguided Patriotism?” Girls, Sex, and Sexual Culture in the 1940s*

3–3:30 p.m.  
**Coffee Break**

3:30–4:30 p.m.  
**Keynote Address**

Shawn Michelle Smith, School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
*Laying Claim to the Land(scape): Chansonetta Stanley Emmons*
Sponsored by the
Department of American Studies

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