

Editorial Statement

We would like to welcome our readers to the twenty-eighth issue of 49th *Parallel* and our second of 2012. In the last few months there have been some exciting developments at the journal and we hope that 49th *Parallel* will continue to flourish in the future.

We would like to welcome our new Articles Editor, Galatea Demetriou, to the 49th *Parallel* team. Galatea is a second year doctoral researcher in the Department of English and Centre for Modern Greek Studies at the University of Birmingham, studying Ezra Pound's reception in Greece. In addition, two of our current editors, Rebecca Isaacs and Katie Barnett, have taken over the role of General Editor and are excited to continue 49th *Parallel*'s tradition of publishing exciting and innovative work in the field of North American Studies. We would like to thank our previous General Editor, Ben Offiler, for all his hard work and dedication to the journal over the past two years. Ben is currently finishing his Ph.D and we wish him well in his future adventures.

We are also delighted to announce the inaugural 49th *Parallel* conference, to be held at the University of Birmingham on September 7th, 2012. Our aim is to enable postgraduate and early career scholars to present their research in an informal yet dynamic environment. In addition, we hope to include representatives from a number of other academic journals, with a view to forging stronger links with other publications and providing a valuable opportunity for our delegates to learn more about the academic publishing process. More information can be found here: [49th Parallel Conference 2012](#).

The Spring issue features four articles dealing with a variety of themes across a broad spectrum of American literature. In "The American Transcendentalists: A Religious Historiography", Daniel Dillard interrogates how the narrative of Transcendentalism has fitted into the religious landscape throughout the history of the United States. In a discussion

revolving around the work of Robert Baird, Leonard Woolsey Bacon, Daniel Dorchester, F. O. Matthiessen and Perry Miller, he explores how the reading of Transcendentalism as explicitly religious is potentially problematic, as well as how specific agendas have fashioned previous scholarship on Transcendentalism.

In the first of three articles examining contemporary American authors and their relationships to changing, often fragmented images of American life, Alessandra De Marco's article, "Late DeLillo, Finance Capital and Mourning: From *The Body Artist* to *Point Omega*", examines the intricacies of the American financial world and their effect on Don DeLillo's recent literature. She argues that the novels *The Body Artist* (2001), *Cosmopolis* (2003), *Falling Man* (2007) and *Point Omega* (2010) may be read as symptomatic of U.S. hegemony and the financial crisis. In "East is (not) East: The Strange Authorial Psychogeography of Bret Easton Ellis", Alison Lutton discusses the topography of Ellis's fictional universe, paying particular attention to depictions of authors and their negotiations of space in his latest novels, *Lunar Park* (2005) and *Imperial Bedrooms* (2010), initiating a re-reading of both the representation of space in Ellis's fiction, and the impact of this space on the constructions of authorship and value found therein. Finally, in "'The Truth of Our Scattering': (Post) Human Complexity in Richard Powers' *The Echo Maker*", Nicola Brindley examines how, in Powers' 2006 novel, humanity is constructed as a system operating through continuing feedback cycles of echoing, mirroring model making, proposing selfhood as fiction situated within the complex, posthumanist discourse of the twenty-first century.

The editors would like to thank all those who have helped bring this issue together, particularly those authors who have contributed articles and book reviews for publication. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the peer reviewers who have been involved with the issue for all their hard work behind the scenes.

We hope that our readers had a relaxing Easter break and that you enjoy this issue of *49th Parallel*.

Katie Barnett, Galatea Demetriou, Rebecca Isaacs, Daniel King, Madalina Stalniceanu and Bart Verhoeven.