

## **Editorial Statement**

We would like to welcome our readers warmly to the twenty ninth issue of *49<sup>th</sup> Parallel*, and hope that you are all having an excellent summer.

As our current team moves into its second issue as an editorial unit, we hope to continue to build the journal's reputation for disseminating innovative and dynamic research across the disciplinary boundaries that constitute North American Studies in the twenty-first century. Our Summer issue features four articles that span just such boundaries. Anabela Alves, of the University of Coimbra, writes on the work of Esmeralda Santiago in light of post-colonial theories, with a view to examining how the rewriting of history can act as a form of protest against silencing the Other, reconciling and reinventing the past in the process.

Dominique Brégent-Heald, of the Memorial University of Newfoundland, explores cinematic representations of the U.S.-Canada border region during the Second World War, highlighting the changing nature of North American relations during the period between 1939 and 1943. Focusing again on the cinema, this time on *The Big Lebowski*, Sudipto Sanyal (Bowling Green State University) launches a discussion of the Coen brothers' film in relation to the notion of genres and what lies in between, suggesting that the film both embraces and resists noir in its construction.

Finally, Oliver Mort discusses twentieth-century American poets, including Walt Whitman, Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams, with a view to understanding the American long poem and the impact that the digital age has had on whether such poetry is viewed as a 'process', or whether artistic coherence remains imperative.

The editors would like to highlight the upcoming *49<sup>th</sup> Parallel* conference, to be held at the University of Birmingham on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2012. This event, the first in the

journal's history, will bring together postgraduate and early career scholars from a wide range of institutions in what we hope will be a stimulating and welcoming environment. Papers will address many diverse elements of American and Canadian Studies, with the intention of showcasing the exciting up-and-coming research in our field. The conference will also feature a keynote address from Professor Scott Lucas (Birmingham) and a workshop exploring the importance of academic journals in postgraduate life, as well as a roundtable discussion in conjunction with the Journal of American Studies. Information on the conference can be found at <http://www.49thparallelconference.wordpress.com>.

The editors would like to thank all the authors who have contributed articles and book reviews to this issue. In particular, we would like to offer our thanks to the peer reviewers for all their hard work and contributions behind the scenes. We also extend our gratitude to our interim web editor, who has been of tremendous help in the finalising of this issue, and without whom we would be unable to share it with our readers.

We hope that our readers have an enjoyable summer break, and hope you enjoy this issue of *49<sup>th</sup> Parallel*.

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