

Editorial – Summer 2013

American politicians and pundits alike often hail the constitutional workings and balance of power enshrined in its republican legacy, not in the least drawing attention to the peaceful nature of the transition of power between partisan governments. So too must we, albeit with a proper sense of humility if not decorum, devote a moment of our time to the inner mechanisms of the journal, which now stands at nearly a decade and a half, and more specifically to the people that have kept the wheels turning.

Last month *49th Parallel* parted with its two general editors, Katie Barnett and Rebecca Isaacs, and though our former colleagues shall be sorely missed, it is primarily with a strong sense of gratitude that we, Galatea Demetriou and Bart Verhoeven, have taken up the reins and would like to offer a formal salute and express our sincere thanks to both brilliant editors and early career scholars. Katie and Becca have made themselves indispensable with their impeccable organization, unyielding motivation skills, general professionalism and above all, their valued friendship.

Under Katie and Becca's supervision, the journal successfully launched its first full-day conference, at the University of Birmingham in September of last year, and a follow-up conference is already in the works for the Spring of 2014. New articles and review editors from both Birmingham and Nottingham have joined the ranks, as well as a Communities editor to further develop *49th Parallel's* profile. As such, we hope the journal can continue to build a dialogue between Americanists and Canadianists at both Midlands institutions, and contribute to the interdisciplinary study of North America at large.

And so, we continue with what is largely a transitional issue. As the reader will notice, the issue contains no finished articles, as these have been pushed ahead into our Fall slot. We are however pleased to offer a diverse array of reviews, highlighting the vitality and multi-faceted nature of the field. We thank James Harvey-Davitt and Edward Jackson for their contributions on publications within the field of film studies, Laura Cuppone for her review on Cybelle Fox's new book on race, immigration and the welfare state, Christian Wilber for taking on Julian Zelizer's latest bestseller and Geoff Mills for providing us with a critical appraisal of Roy Morris's original work on the legendary Oscar Wilde in North America.

Needless to say, we look forward to serving the academic and amateur communities of North American Studies for a long time to come!

The Editors, Galatea Demetriou and Bart Verhoeven