

### Note From the Editors

To start the New Year, we are delighted to present the twenty-seventh issue of 49<sup>th</sup> *Parallel*. As we look forward with anticipation and curiosity at what 2012 will bring to those who study North America – already the twists and turns surrounding the U.S. Republican presidential nomination promises for an interesting and unpredictable 2012 election - we hope to build and expand on the foundations put in place over the last year.

2011 was an exciting year for the journal as we launched a new website in February by holding a small symposium at the University of Nottingham, which also formalised the editorial link between the University of Birmingham (where 49<sup>th</sup> *Parallel* was founded all those years ago) and Nottingham. Alongside this technological leap forward, 49<sup>th</sup> *Parallel* made its presence felt on the social networking sites Facebook and Twitter, at last joining the twenty-first century.

49<sup>th</sup> *Parallel* was also closely involved with a number of conferences in 2011, presenting a panel at the annual *British Association of Canadian Studies* conference held at Birmingham in April. We also worked closely with the organisers of the *Twenty-first Century American and Canadian Voices* conference, held at Nottingham in June, presenting a workshop on all things editorial; we also hope to publish a number of papers from the day in a Conference Special later this year. We really enjoyed working alongside both of these conferences and are grateful for the experience. If the organisers of other American Studies conferences are interested in also working alongside 49<sup>th</sup> *Parallel* then we encourage them to get in touch.

We would like to thank all those who have helped make 2011 such a successful year for 49<sup>th</sup> *Parallel*, particularly those who have contributed material in the form of articles, book reviews and opinion pieces, and everybody who we have worked with at conferences and other events. The editorial team would also like to thank the unsung and anonymous heroes of academic editing, the peer reviewers who help to maintain the journal's high standards.

The featured articles in this issue all tackle the general theme of frontiers and borders in a number of interesting ways. In “A New Frontier: Or just a 240,000 mile cul-de-sac?,” Mark Shanahan examines the role of John F. Kennedy in America's space race and suggests that, despite his rhetoric and the mythologizing of the Camelot era, rather than extending the new

frontier into the far reaches of space, JFK's yearning for a post-Sputnik symbolic victory actually served to limit the scope of the U.S. space programme. Arguing for a reassessment of Kennedy's role, Shanahan highlights the importance of both Dwight Eisenhower and Lyndon Johnson in getting the American space programme off the ground. Staying with the theme of natural borders, in "From *Empire Falls* to Pawtucket Falls: a harbinger of salvation," Marleen Schulte adopts the idea of relational geographies to make temporal and spatial connections in a close reading of Richard Russo's novel. By placing her analysis within the framework of globalisation she then uses *Empire Falls* to draw parallels with and distinctions from the New England industrial town of Lowell, a real-life site of deindustrialisation.

The other two articles in this issue deal with similar themes, focusing on the impact of immigration on foreign policy and society. In "Canadians' Consternation: Irish Immigration, Competition, and Canada's Relationship to the United States and the British Empire in the 1840s," Jonathan Keljik examines how the influx of Irish immigrants in the 1840s caused a series of changes in Canadian immigration policy. Keljik argues that new policies were devised as a direct attempt by Canadian officials to compete with the United States in acquiring the right numbers and 'quality' of immigrants. Ashley Zampogna-Krug's article, "Immigration vs. Emigration: The Internationality of U.S. Immigration Policy," uses the Second International Emigration and Immigration Conference held in Havana, Cuba in 1928, as a case study to raise similar questions. Rather than focus on domestic and internal factors affecting U.S. immigration policy, she highlights the foreign relations and transnational influences in the 1920s that helped form Washington's response to developments and trends in European emigration to the Americas.

We hope that you enjoy reading the issue and wish all our readers and contributors the very best for 2012!

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