Editorial

It is with great joy that we present the latest issue of 49th Parallel and we are proud to see contributors display the same degree of quality, perseverance, and originality that has put this journal on the radar. As usual, we have been able to rely on a number of loyal reviewers - John Barnhill, Enrico Beltramini, Edward Jackson and Hannah Murray - to provide us with critical readings of a wide body of literature. It goes without saying we have enjoyed their analyses and would like to express our appreciation for their work. You will, however, notice that this is an issue focusing on articles; we are delighted to present no less than five compelling pieces of scholarship, with three focusing on (political) historiography and two on literary analysis.

Firstly, Solomon K. Smith uses the controversy surrounding Michael Bellesiles’ book Arming America: Origins of a National Gun Culture as a jump off point to respond to three major issues the work raised about early America: where colonials acquired fire arms, how they used them, and whether a "gun culture" already existed at the time. Meanwhile, Soren Fanning compares settlement policy between Alaska and the Canadian Yukon through the lens of institutional path dependence to explore how conditions at early stages of the expansion process locked in policies of settlement, political incorporation, and cultural identity that shaped the attitudes of the American and Canadian authorities toward their frontier regions. Furthermore, Benjamin E. Park’s article examines what the Atlantic framework offers the study of American nationalism, especially for the years between the American Revolution and the Civil War.

Subsequently, two articles on literature complement the issue. In the first one, the focus is on Ernest Hemingway’s short story “Fathers and Sons”; Teodora Domotor looks at the character of Nick in order to interrogate the psychoanalytic concepts of trauma, abjection, and coping mechanisms which appear to govern the entire story. Last but not least, Manuela López Ramírez studies Toni Morrison’s Home and explores the ways the great author revisions and subverts the fairy tale “Hansel and Gretel” to depict the transformation of the African’s self from fragmentation to self-definition.

Finally, this editorial note offers us an opportunity to thank our colleagues for the great work they have done and the pleasant atmosphere they have helped to create. After little under two years, it is time for us to hand over the torch as General Editors and help the journal forward
into a new era, and under new leadership. Needless to say, it has been a pleasure to work for *49th Parallel* and we wish our colleagues an equally fulfilling journey.

We hope you will enjoy this issue and look forward to the next.

Galateia Demetriou and Bart Verhoeven