

Editorial

It is with great pleasure that we present the new issue of *49th Parallel*, an issue that predominantly focuses on reviews. This issue comes in the wake of the 49th 'Money Talks' postgraduate conference in Nottingham, a stimulating colloquium on the relationship between economic inequality and North American cultural and political life prompted by the Great Recession. The conference, organized by the Nottingham branch of the journal had a diverse array of papers and an especially salient keynote paper by Dr Paul Crosthwaite of the University of Edinburgh. We anticipate a special journal issue on the conference theme in summer 2016 and welcome submissions to our email address. The call for submissions can be found at:

<http://49thparalleljournal.org/submissions/call-for-submissions/>

The closing date is **November 1st, 2015**.

For now though, we have a perceptive array of reviews of books that span United States history, literature and culture from the Founding Fathers to the twenty-first century. Alex Moran's versatile analysis of Linda Williams's exploration of David Simon's landmark TV drama *The Wire* offers a serious examination of this piece of television scholarship. In Iain Williams's review of Allard den Dulk's *Existential Engagement in Wallace, Eggers and Foer: A Philosophical Analysis of Contemporary American Literature*, a serious and terse exploration of Dulk's methodology is given along with a thorough grounding of the sincerity versus irony debate of the 1990s.

If your tastes are more historically inclined, we have Steven George's review of Francis D. Cogliano's *Emperor of Liberty: Thomas Jefferson's Foreign Policy*, a critique that offers a thorough historical context to support a concise and informative close analysis of Cogliano's examination of Jefferson's foreign policy. If that's not enough in the way of manifest destiny, Alessandra Magrin's review of David M. Wrobel's *Global West, American Frontier: Travel Empire and Exceptionalism from Manifest Destiny to the Great Depression* is similarly exacting and offers sharp insight into a book that shows the vicissitudes of American notions of the frontier. Concerning a much more quotidian subject, David Parker's historically resonant review of Marcie Cohen Ferris's *The Edible South: The Power of Food and the Making of an American Region* offers an intimate analysis of a book that delineates culinary culture in the South from the antebellum era, through reconstruction and right to the 1950s.

We also have Jon Coburn illustrating the salience of *African Americans Against the Bomb: Nuclear Weapons, Colonialism, and the Black Freedom Movement*, Vincent J Intondi's monograph on the African American response to the arms race beginning in the late 1940s. David Hancock's review of Raymond Malewitz's *The Practice of Misuse: Rugged Consumerism and Contemporary American Culture* offers a similarly acute historical grounding in looking at Malewitz's depiction of quintessential 'rugged individualism' during the 1960s and 1970s. Finally, Guy Lancaster reviews Terence Finnegan's *A Deed so Accursed: Lynching in Mississippi and South Carolina, 1881- 1940*, a review with bracing insight into the socio-political and economic countercurrents that lay behind the practice in the title.

We hope you enjoy this issue,

General Editors

Tom Cobb and Hannah Murray