

Editors' Preface

The essays assembled in this collection were presented at a one-day symposium entitled "Cross-cultural Readings of the United States" held in Zagreb on May 24, 2014. This symposium thus offered a platform for Croatian Americanists and the colleagues from the neighboring countries to present their current research in particular as it reflects our "local" readings, interpretations, and imagining of the United States in its present or past aspects. The local variants of conceiving the United States, as a powerful dispenser of images and cultural practices globally, included the views from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, and the United States. We are grateful that Professors Walter Hölbling (University of Graz) and Moira Baker (Radford University) acted as key note speakers and lead the way into inspiring discussions.

The present collection is hopefully only a first volume in the series Working Papers in American Studies. We envision this series as showcasing the state-of-the-art research done in American Studies and related fields by Americanists in Croatia, members of the Croatian Association for American Studies, and enriched by the contribution of our colleagues, regional, European and world-wide American Studies scholars. We earnestly hope that the edition, published on the CAAS (HUAmS) web site, will be able to continuously register the thematic, methodological, and generational diversity and dynamics characteristic of doing American Studies in the institutions of higher learning in our country, while extending welcome to scholars from abroad. As always, we invite our readers to be the final judges of the success of our scholarly endeavors.

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Editors,

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