

**Editorial: New Directions and a New Editor for *JAST***

Before I begin my introduction and lay out my vision for the direction of the Journal of American Studies of Turkey, I would like to take the time to thank the previous editor of *JAST*, Laurence Raw of Başkent University. Without his tireless work over the last four years the journal would, I am sure, be in a very different place than it is now, and my transition as the new editor would have been much more difficult.

Now to introduce myself to those readers who do not know me personally: My name is Gordon Marshall and I have worked in Turkey for the last ten years, first in Istanbul and then more recently in Ankara at Başkent University in the Department of American Literature and Culture. Before I moved to Turkey, I was a doctoral candidate in History at SUNY at Buffalo, graduating in 2009 when I was working in the American Culture and Literature program at Haliç Univeristy. I have been a member of ASAT since 2007, and in my time both at the university and as a part of the association, I have seen numerous changes in American Studies both in Turkey and abroad.

Just as American Studies has changed my own work, it itself has changed over the last ten years. I began my career in Turkey, and indeed as a student in America, focused on the Cultural History of postwar America and the role of the Beat Generation in the formation of that culture which is often called the Cold War. In the years since I received my PhD, I began to look at contemporary literature and culture through the lens of the subculture of Steampunk. Since Steampunk is historical in nature, it blended well with my existing work. Similarly, this is what I hope to do as Editor of *JAST*: blend its existing strengths with new forms of studying literature and culture, and at the same time, parse out new ways of disseminating information. With this in mind, I am pleased to announce that from this point forward *JAST* has gone from print subscription format to an electronic open access format. All articles and reviews, including back issues, will be available on the ASAT-*JAST* website. The purpose of this shift from a journal that catered to its membership and those who wrote for it to a journal accessible to all interested readers

is to tell those outside of ASAT what we already know: that strong, relevant research is being published both in *JAST* and in Turkey.

This change in format and access options reflects a push outwards into the larger American Studies community with the goal of sharing research with those outside of ASAT and also in encouraging further interest in the journal from individuals who previously could not access the articles. I believe this move will increase citation of the journal, which will lead the way to being included in more prominent indexing systems that will spur further interest in the journal and the association as it has in other countries. In addition to structural changes, the areas of submission for articles and reviews will be expanded to both strengthen traditional areas in literature and history, as well as instigate engagement with new areas of American Studies that can only increase interest in future issues. By this, I mean that the special issue on particular authors, political and cultural movements, transnational cultural discussions, and race and ethnicity in literature and culture will be supplemented with work on contemporary genres such as Domestic Noir, studies of American Culture in the World, race and gender impacts on particular types of literature, comic studies, and Young Adult literature to name a few of the exciting possibilities. More importantly, *JAST* will also look for articles and reviews that focus on how the rest of the world views America, such as the vast interest and real fear generated in the run up to the Presidential Election of 2016. After the election has been decided the question of its impact on the rest of the world will still be discussed regardless of its outcome.

While I have talked about change throughout this brief introduction, I wish to pause and reiterate that the focus of *JAST* has not really changed. We are still a journal that is primarily about the field of American Studies and we will not discount articles on individual authors, literary movements, or events in American history. These have always been the foundation of both the field and this journal but we must also look outwards in the hopes of finding voices that have not yet been heard. I look forward to working with you all to facilitate this new journey.

Sincerely,

Gordon J.R. Marshall, Editor, *Journal of American Studies of Turkey*