



SCOTTISH  
ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE STUDY  
OF AMERICA

# SASA Twenty-Seventh Annual Conference

7 March 2026, The University of the Highlands and Islands

UHI House, Old Perth Road, Inverness, IV2 3JH

9:00-9:30 Registration and Coffee (Phase 1/ Street)

## 9:30 – 10:45 Session One

### **Panel 1A: United States in the 1960s**

*Classroom 3*

*Chair: Ben Quail (Queen's University Belfast)*

- Tom Wilkinson (University of Auckland), “1960 as a Turning Point: John F. Kennedy, Outer Space, and Life Magazine's ‘National Purpose’”
- Brian McNerney (Trinity College Dublin), “‘Covering War for TV—It’s Almost Like Fighting It’: Morley Safer Lights Up the Credibility Gap”

### **Panel 1B: Reparations Now!**

*Lecture Theatre*

*Chair: Mariane Gallet (University of Edinburgh)*

- María Fernanda Ortiz Vivas (University of Glasgow), “Reparations for Slavery in Puerto Rico: Reflections, Debates, and the Spanish Compensation Scheme for Abolition”
- Eilidh Finlayson (University of Glasgow), “Transatlantic Capital and Courtship: Scottish Women, Slavery-Derived Wealth, and the Negotiation of Marriage and Property, 1770-1840”
- A. M. Martínez (University of Groningen), “Catholic Reparations at White Earth Nation: A Call for Decolonizing the Catholic Church”
- Stephen Mullen (University of Glasgow), “Repatriating Slavery’s Capital, 1707-1865”

### **Panel 1C: Mind the Matter, and Minds who Matter**

*Classroom 5*

*Chair: Dinos Pappas (University of Stirling)*

- Manuela Engstler (Universität Mannheim), “Lights Out at the Museum? Material Artifacts Dis/Connected from their Cultures of Origin”
- Lina Zhou (University of Basel), “Autobiographical Narrations of Upward Mobility among U.S. Academics”
- Renata Nowaczewska (University of Szczecin), “Cold War Fellowships and the Selection of Scientists Behind the Iron Curtain: Lessons from the Rockefeller Foundation’s Practices (1957–62)” [online]

### **Panel 1D: Geographies of North America beyond the US**

*Classroom 4*

*Chair: Laura Wilson (University of St Andrews)*

- Sophie O'Reilly (University of Glasgow), “Bridging Liminality and Heterotopic Spaces in Kirmen Uribe’s *Bilbao-New York-Bilbao* and Cristina García’s *Dreaming in Cuban*”
- Eleanor Gillespie (University of Portsmouth), “Catharine Parr Traill’s *Backwoods of Canada* (1836): Women and Botanical Naming in Upper Canada”
- Biljana Oklopčić (University of Osijek), “The Image of the West Indies in William Faulkner’s *Absalom, Absalom!*”



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## 10:45 – 12:00 Session Two

### **Panel 2A: The Many Meanings of Travel**

*Classroom 3*

*Chair: Gyorgy Toth (University of Stirling)*

- Charles Miller (University of Roehampton), “‘I had a veal pie which mamma made me stuff down in an awful hurry.’ The 1857 Travel Diary of Julian Hawthorne, aged 12”
- Silvia Guselli (La Sapienza, University of Rome), “Crèvecoeur’s Voyage: Writing the Early American Nation into Words”
- Susan Bremner (Independent Scholar), “Scots in Peru: An Unnoticed Corner of the Scottish Diaspora”
- Csaba Lévai (University of Debrecen), “Scotland and the United States as Republican Ideals in the Eyes of a Hungarian Traveler” [online]

### **Panel 2B: Black Geographies**

*Classroom 4*

*Chair: Mara Curechian (University of St Andrews)*

- Theresa Marx (University of Freiburg), “Black in the Wild: Remapping Geographies of Black Struggle”
- Nadine Barakat (University of Edinburgh), “Reconfiguring the Map: Black Women’s Narratives and the Geography of Freedom-Seeking”
- Csenge Aradi (University of Szeged), “Ecological View in Afro-American Folktales Across the Americas”
- Scarlett Croft (University of Glasgow), “From Petroleum to the Pentagon: De-sanitising and Disrupting Dreams of Oil Extraction and Military Power in Jayne Cortez’s Poetic Imaginaries”

### **Panel 2C: Beyond Food and Eating**

*Classroom 5*

*Chair: Audrey Sisel (University of Edinburgh)*

- Alex Ferguson (University of Sheffield), “‘Our Portly Hope’: Bao Dai, the Post-War Obesity Crisis, and the Origins of U.S. Involvement in Vietnam”
- Marlene Winkler (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz), “Writing Resistance: Concepts of (Self-)Ownership and the Body in Han Kang’s *The Vegetarian*”
- Lisa Weglinski (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz), “‘Eat Right, Sleep Right, Play’ – Successful Aging at the United States National Senior Games”

### **Panel 2D: Defying Expectations: Women in American Society**

*Lecture Theatre*

*Chair: Jennifer Frost (University of Auckland)*

- Beatriz Bicudo Cunha (University of Lisbon), “‘Artistic people never realize the common-sense view of things’: Art and Singlehood in Louisa May Alcott and Mary Findlater”
- Sára Viktória Valicskó (University of Debrecen), “The Rise of the ‘Weird Girl’: Case Studies in the Representation of Women in Contemporary American Fiction”
- Maja Garbacik (Jagiellonian University), “From Hostess to Policy Influencer: The Changing Role of America’s First Ladies”



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12:00 – 12:15 Break (Phase 1/ Street)

**12:15 – 13:30 Session Three**

**Panel 3A: Shaping Southern Memory**

*Classroom 3*

*Chair: Katherine Burns (University of Glasgow)*

- David Anderson (Swansea University), “Winters of (Dis)Content: Remembering the Plantation Christmas in Southern Life-Writing after Slavery”
- Laura Wilson (University of St Andrews), “Sharpening the Focus: Contemporary Black Photography at Former Plantations”

**Panel 3B: Gender, Care and Community**

*Classroom 4*

*Chair: Dinos Pappas (University of Stirling)*

- Sweeya Nidamarthi (University of Bristol), “Rest, Resistance and the Front Porch in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes were Watching God* and *Barracoon: The Story of the Last Black Cargo*” [online]
- HEND AYARI (University of Debrecen), “Storying Survivance: Indigenous Women’s Biostories, Healing, and Cultural Resurgence” [online]
- Oli Akroyd (Independent Scholar), “‘Fear hath been driven out by perfect love’: Male mental health in crisis in the context of the Early Republic – a case study of John Randolph of Roanoke (1773-1833)”

**Panel 3C: American-ness Deconstructed: Gender and Nationality on Screen**

*Lecture Theatre*

*Chair: Gyorgy Toth (University of Stirling)*

- Fruzsina Fazekas (University of Debrecen), “‘I’m Just a Woman’: Girlboss Feminism in *Griselda*”
- Paulina Schlosser (Johannes Gutenberg- Universität Mainz), “‘And for the Lady... Perhaps a Salad?’ Grotesque Comedy and Gendered Consumption in *Santa Clarita Diet* (2017-2019)”
- Naomi Smith (Birkbeck, University of London), “Transgender Identities and Race in US National Television News”

**Panel 3D: The American City**

*Classroom 5*

*Chair: Nadine Barakat (University of Edinburgh)*

- Triasha Mondal (University of Glasgow), “*A Raisin in the Sun*: Deferred Dreams and the Limits of the American Dream in Twentieth-Century American Literature”
- Baruch Gilinsky (University of Oxford), “Homeless City Government: San Francisco City Hall, 1871-1899”
- Julia Tymczyszyn (Jagiellonian University), “Youth Homelessness in Minnesota: Trends and Opportunities”
- Marika Ceschia (Independent Scholar) “June Jordan’s Radical Urban Ecologies: Reimagining the City Through Care, Community, and Black Feminist Design”



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**13:30 –14:30 Lunch (Phase 1/ Street)**

**14:00 – 14:30 AGM / Essay Prize Announcements (Lecture Theatre)**

**14:30 – 15:30 Keynote (Lecture Theatre)**

**Jennifer Frost, University of Auckland**

**"The 'Consent of the Governed' and the Crisis of American Democracy: Lessons from 20th Century Voting Rights Movements"**

**15:30 – 15:45 Break (Phase 1/ Street)**

**15:45 – 17:00 Session Four**

**Panel 4A: Transnational Culture in the American Century**

*Classroom 3*

*Chair: Gyorgy Toth (University of Stirling)*

- András Lénárt (University of Szeged), "Walt Disney and Inter-American Relations: Cultural Diplomacy in Latin America"
- James Peacock (Keele University), "The song is in the step': Music, Voice and Silence in Paul Auster's Writing" [online]

**Panel 4B: Reimagining the Bildungsroman**

*Classroom 4*

*Chair: Alikei Varvogli (University of Dundee)*

- Éva Urbán (University of Debrecen), "A healing help—one that carried through seven generations: *Calling for a Blanket Dance* as a Relational Healing Narrative"
- Andrea Carboni (Durham University), "Post-Growth Coming-of-Age and Queer Ecologies of Incompleteness: Wasting and Contamination in K-Ming Chang's *Bestiary*"
- Hakima Choukri (Abdelmalek Essaadi University), "Watch Them, Watch Her: The Intersectionality of Surveillance in the Arab-American Bildungsroman"



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#### **Panel 4C: US Foreign Policy and Intelligence Since the Late 20th Century**

*Lecture Theatre*

*Chair: Alex Ferguson (University of Sheffield)*

- Jack Clayton (School of Oriental and African Studies), “Keeping a City Upon a Hill Shining: Obama’s Jeffersonian Approach to the Transatlantic Alliance and the Iran Nuclear Deal During an Identity Crisis in American Exceptionalism”
- Kaitlyn Church (University of Glasgow), “‘The Gulf War Did Not Take Place’: Media Management and Narrative Control during Desert Storm”
- Julia Żółtowska (Jagiellonian University), “Pinochet, DINA, and the CIA: Building Chile’s Secret Police in the Cold War”

#### **Panel 4D: (The Road to) Trump’s America**

*Classroom 5*

*Chair: Ben Quail (Queen’s University Belfast)*

- Katie O’Neill (University of Stirling), “From Belief to Behaviour: Misplaced Certainty and Political Engagement in the Age of Conspiracy”
- Karol Kozłowski (Jagiellonian University), “American Values in the Presidential Campaigns of 1984 & 2024)
- Areeba Ahsanat Moazzam (Woxsen University), “Performing American Exceptionalism: A Discursive Analysis of U.S. Presidential Rhetoric in the Post-Cold War Era” [online]