

EAST *meets* WEST

Cross-Cultural Perspectives
on America's Changing Image

12-13 September 2025, Kosice, Slovakia

Conference organized by
the Department of British and American Studies, Faculty of Arts,
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia
and
the Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies (ČSAAS)

Conference venue

PLATÓN building of the Faculty of Arts, Moyzesova 9, Košice

Presentation requirements

Conference rooms will be equipped with computers (OS Windows) and projectors (beamers). Presenters should have their presentations on a USB or an online cloud service; connecting presenters' computers to the projectors will not be possible.

Registration (check-in) of conference participants

Friday (September 12) 8.00 – 18.00 at the conference venue – Platón, ground floor

Saturday (September 13) 8.00 – 12.00 at the conference venue – Platón, ground floor

Conference programme

Friday – 12 September 2025

8.00 Registration (check-in) of conference participants – Platón, ground floor

9.00 – 9.15 Conference opening (Conference room P2)

9.15 – 10.15 Plenary speaker session 1 (Conference room P2) chaired by Stephen Wooten

Hua-Yu Sebastian Cherng, New York University, USA

By Design: Structural Inequalities in US Higher Education and Beyond

10.15 – 10.30 Coffee break

10.30 – 12:00 Submitted paper sessions (4 presenters per room, each with a 15-minute presentation followed by a 30-minute panel discussion)

Section 1 (Conference room P2) chaired by Matej Cibík

1. Kryštof Kozák, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic: *Towards the Renaissance of Area Studies? The Curious Case of American Studies*

2. Libor Práger, Silesian University in Opava, Czech Republic: *From Bohemian Idealism to American Disillusionment? Emanuel Klácel and the Transatlantic Reimagining of Liberty*
3. Marek Hampl, University of Žilina in Žilina, Slovakia: *Metaphorical Representation of Counterterrorism Measures in Barack Obama's discourse*
4. Kateřina Březinová, Metropolitan University, Prague, Czech Republic: *Reflections on American Identity: Neither Here nor There—DACA and Belonging in 21st-Century America*

Section 2 (Conference room S8) chaired by David Livingstone

1. Anthony Macias, University of California, Riverside, USA: *What It's Supposed to Be: Contemporary Country Music's Response to a National Identity Crisis*
2. Jiří Měsíc, University of Granada, Spain: *Awakening America: Bob Dylan's Take on the Murder of J.F.K. from a 2020 Perspective Consumerism and Mass Tourism in Hypermodern Times*
3. Robert Perez, University of California, Riverside, USA: *The Road to Richmond: An Examination of YouTube Reaction Videos and the Role of Music in the Conservative Cultural Shift Among Black Americans*
4. Maki Sadahiro, Meiji Gakuin University, Japan: *Goin' Home: The Triangular Relationship Between Music in America, Bohemia, and Japan*

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch break

13.00 – 14.00 Plenary speaker session 2 (Conference room P2) chaired by Zuzana Buráková

Michaela Weiss, Silesian University in Opava, Czech Republic:
Myth, Memory, and Migration: Jewish Stories and the American Imagination

14.00 – 14.15 Coffee break

14.15 – 15.45 Submitted papers sessions

Section 1 (Conference room P2) chaired by Michaela Weiss

1. Michal Peprník, Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic: *Environmental Grief, Autism and Biocentrism in Richard Powers's Novel The Bewilderment*
2. Tomáš Kačer, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic: *An Immigrants' Story: An Updated View of A Touch of The Poet by E. O'Neill*
3. Diana Židová, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia: *Cross-Cultural Dialogues in the Contemporary Slovak American Narratives*
4. Christopher E. Koy, University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic: *Philip Roth's Asia*

Section 2 (Conference room S8) chaired by Martina Martausová

1. Tomáš Pospíšil, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic: *Digital Resurrections and the Ghosts of Hollywood: American Sci-Fi Elements in Restore Point*
2. Nela Hachlerová, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic: *Adapting the Screenplay Novel: Interior Chinatown from Page to Screen*
3. Tomasz Jacheć, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland: *Performative National Cultures and Identities in Transatlantic Adventures of Batman and Joker*
4. Petra Kohlová, University of Pardubice, Czech Republic: *Future Identity in Dear Cyborgs by Eugene Lim*

15.45 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.30 – 17.30 Free guided tour of Kosice (Meeting point at Dolná Brána)

18.00 Conference Dinner (Sokrates building, Faculty of Arts, Moyzesova 9, Košice)

19.00 PhD Forum: informal session during the conference dinner with PhD students, hosted by Tomáš Kačer (chair of the CSAAS)

Saturday – 13 September 2025

8.00 Registration (check-in) of conference participants – Platón, ground floor

9.00 – 10.00 Plenary speaker 1 (Conference room P2) chaired by Silvia Baučeková Stephen, Wooten, University of Oregon, USA:

Melting Pots, Tossed Salads, and Happy Meals: Food Metaphors and Realities at the Modern American Crossroad

10.00 – 10.15 Coffee break

10.15 – 11.45 Submitted paper sessions (4 presenters per room, each with a 15-minute presentation followed by a 30-minute panel discussion)

Section 1 (Conference room P2) chaired by Tomáš Kačer

1. Hana Ulmanová, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic: *Orientalism and Lynching in the Wild West: A Pedagogical Reading*
2. Petr Anténe, Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic: *Lily, Rose, and Little Dog: Fauna and flora imagery as a way of reflecting and overcoming Vietnamese American transgenerational trauma in Ocean Vuong's On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*
3. Jaroslav Kušnír, University of Prešov, Slovakia: *American, Transnational, Indigenous or Oceanic Cultural Identities in Hawaii Fiction? Gary Pak's The Valley of the Dead Air and Michael Puleloa's Man Underwater*
4. Michaela Marková, Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic: *Self as Narrative: Subjectivity and Community in Dawn Quigley's Apple in the Middle (2018) and Tommy Orange's There There (2018)*

Section 2 (Conference room S8) chaired by Tomáš Pospíšil

1. Sándor Klapčík, Technical University in Liberec, Czech Republic: *Xenophobia and the (De)Construction of the Gunslinger in Films Featuring the US and Hungarian Refugee Crises after 2014*
2. Caroline Ann Daněk Kyzek, Trnava University in Trnava, Slovakia: *"My name is Jack-Jack Pumpkinhead": The Image of the Pumpkin in American Literature and Film*
3. Regan Lipes, MacEwan University, Canada: *Popular Film and Television Portrayals of Jewishness: How Media Can Impact Increased Antisemitism*
4. Piotr Mamet, Emeritus, Poland: *Felix Leiter versus 007: The Vision of US Intelligence Agent in James Bond Movies*

11.45 – 13:00 Lunch break

13.00 – 14.00 Plenary speaker 2 (Conference room P2) chaired by Kryštof Kozák

Matej Cibík, Central European University in Vienna, Austria: *How concepts travel: American export of political vocabulary and frameworks*

14:00 – 14:15 Coffee Break

14.15 – 15.45 Submitted papers sessions

Section 1 (Conference room P2) chaired by Petra Filipová

1. Zenó Vernyik and Dávid Levente Palatinus, Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic: *"My Father Was Not a Cowboy, Truly Not": The Changing Image of America in Hungarian Pop Music, 1980 – 2025*
2. David Livingstone, Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic: *Land of Hopes and Dreams: Bruce Springsteen's Vision of America*

3. Éva Forintos, University of Pannonia, Veszprém, Hungary: *The correlation between code choice and fluid identity in Hungarian diaspora communities in the United States of America as analysed on social media platforms*
4. Elina Paliichuk, Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University, Kyiv, Ukraine: *Schemata, Archetypes, and Authority: Mapping a Political Figure in the American Press*

14:15 – 15:30 Submitted papers session

Section 2 (Conference room S8) chaired by Tomáš Kačer

1. Nora Júlia Levická, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic: *NorLife Imitates Art: Adriana Smith's, Margaret Atwood's and Hulu's The Handmaid's Tale as Echoes of the Abuse of Black Female Bodies*
2. Katarína Rendošová, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia: *Reimagining Personal Development: Yaa Gyasi's Homegoing (2016) and the Post-Black Bildungsroman as Resistance to American National Myths*
3. Lucie Altmanová, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic: *Land and the Female Body: Colonial Control and Narrative Possession in The Descendants*
4. Klaudia Kováčová, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia: *An Ecofeminist Critique of America's Environmental Ethos*
5. Natália Koščová, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia: *Freedom in Decline: The Collapse of Democratic Foundations in Contemporary America*

15.30-15.45 Conference closing (Conference room P2)

15.45-16.15 CSAA General meeting (Conference room P2, hybrid format)

<https://video.nti.sk/join?e2rb4j4t6ur>

 Book Swap

Book Swap at the Conference

The book swap will take place during the coffee break in the Coffee Break Room (ground floor of Platón).

Bring a book you've written or co-edited and swap it for another!