

Visegrad Studies on Americas
Past and Present

Visegrad Studies on Americas

Past and Present

EDS.
ANNA BARTNIK
AGNIESZKA MAŁEK



Cracow 2016

© Copyright by individual authors, 2016

Reviewer
dr hab. Paweł Laidler, prof. UJ

Editing

Cover design
Paweł Sepielak

Publication of this volume was financially supported
by the Faculty of International and Political Studies,
Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora,
and the “Bratniak” Students’ and Graduates’
of Jagiellonian University Foundation

ISBN 978-83-7638-785-7

KSIĘGARNIA AKADEMICKA
ul. św. Anny 6, 31-008 Cracow
tel./faks: 12 431 27 43, 12 421 13 87
e-mail: akademicka@akademicka.pl
Internet bookshop: www.akademicka.pl

Contents

Preface.....	7
Radosław Rybkowski, <i>Across the Atlantic. Why American Studies in Poland?</i>	11
Réka M. Cristian, <i>Mapping and Remapping America(s): Perspectives on Hungarian American Studies</i>	17
Peter Rusiňák, <i>From hardware to soft skills – North American area studies in Slovakia. A view from Bratislavian Center for North American Studies Experience</i>	25
Ewelina Gutowska-Kozielska, <i>At War with Hillary. The Constitutive Rhetoric of the Republican Party</i>	31
Jan Bečka, Maxim Kucer, <i>The US Pivot to Asia: Historical Reflection, Current Situation and Perspectives for the Future</i>	41
Beatrix Balogh, <i>US Citizenship of Overseas Territories</i>	55
Anna Bartnik, <i>Illegal, undocumented or unauthorized. A few reflections on unauthorized population in the United States</i>	67
Emőke Horváth, <i>The departure of the Covadonga. The Catholic Clergy after the Triumph of the Cuban Revolution (1960-1961)</i>	79
William R. Glass, <i>Justifying American Interventionism: The 'Americans in Mexico' Westerns of the 1950s and 1960s</i>	91
Krisztina Magyar, <i>Womb and Breasts: Female Body Parts in Seventeenth-Century Puritan Political Communications</i>	101
Irén Annus, <i>From Mollywood with Humor: A Mormon Pride and Prejudice</i>	109
Orsolya Anna Sudár, <i>Memory forgotten: the importance of narrative in collective memory through two case studies</i>	119

Contents

Ivan Lacko, *(Re)dramatizing, (Re)framing and (Re)writing History
in Suzan-Lori Parks' The America Play* 129

Abstracts..... 139

Contributors 153

Preface

The origins of this book are to be found in the wish to promote and enhance cooperation between scholars from Visegrad countries: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. In spite of significant interest in American Studies in each country, there has so far been no regular cooperation among scholars, researchers and students. Therefore, we invited authors representing various disciplines relating to American studies to join us in an attempt to integrate scholars and create an academic space for future projects and educational programs. This volume is a consciously interdisciplinary exploration of contemporary America. Although we have tried to expand the traditional perspective on the notion of American studies, too often limited to the United States, to include southern parts of the continent, the preponderance of research on the US has proven fairly enduring. Despite this, we are convinced that the collection reflects the main features of the field of American studies as well as research and teaching interests and expertise of its practitioners in Visegrad countries. The texts have been chosen for their relevance to understanding American social, political and cultural life. At the same time, we are aware of certain omissions in this volume (to name just one example: the formation of American studies in the Czech Republic). We also realize that Latin America is underrepresented in the book. In our efforts to collect the most representative team of authors and research areas, Latin Americanists from Visegrad countries appeared to be little responsive. The collection,

however, is aimed at being the first step towards broader, long-term and fruitful academic collaboration and hopefully this and other topics will be tackled in the subsequent volume(s). We hope that this volume proves useful for students in the whole range of social and cultural studies as well as for those who share an interest in American society.

The content of the book is not divided into certain sections, but at least three leading themes can be indicated. The authors whose articles are included in the first part examine national and/or local developments in the field and various experiences and paths towards the institutionalization of American Studies in their countries. Their efforts aim to show the state of American Studies on Visegrad's educational map. Radosław Rybkowski introduces the conditions under which American studies emerged in Poland. Réka M. Cristian provides an overview of the history of American studies in Hungary. She points out a specific subversive role which this field played within Hungarian higher education during the Cold War period. In the third chapter, somewhat autobiographical, Peter Rusiňák argues that American studies cannot be limited to traditional subjects such as literature, languages and social and political science, but need a gradual shift towards business-oriented themes. In his view such a change is necessary in order to respond to local and global market needs.

The second section focuses on social and political issues: foreign policy, political rhetoric, migration, citizenship. Ewelina Gutowska-Kozielska analyzes the rhetoric used by Rush Limbaugh, radio talk show host, political commentator and one of the most influential figures among conservative audiences. In her article, the author focuses in particular on Limbaugh's rhetoric about Hillary Clinton, arguing that the techniques he uses and the words he chooses to describe Clinton's behavior and actions result in a construction of reality in which Clinton is the enemy of Republican ideals and values and should not be a part of the American political landscape. Jan Bečka and Maxim Kucer examine the so called American 'pivot to Asia', i.e. the strategic shift towards the Asia-Pacific region announced by Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama in 2011. The authors ask whether the 21st century will be a 'Pacific century' for the US and whether this will enable the United States to decrease its commitment to Europe. Beatrix Balogh provides an overview of the politics

of citizenship in US Territories and examines recent trends and events that can influence the current academic debate and transform it into an agenda-setting issue. Anna Bartnik highlights selected issues related to illegal immigration in the US and focuses on differences between words or phrases used to describe the unauthorized immigrant population. Emőke Horváth discusses church-state relations in Cuba in the post-revolutionary years and explores the factors that caused more than 130 priests to leave the island in 1961. William R. Glass analyzes the evolution of the way that westerns (and especially a subgenre called by the author 'Americans in Mexico') depicted a growing disillusionment with US foreign policy of intervention designed to promote independence and economic development in the first two decades of the Cold War.

The last part of the book focuses on music, literature and theatre and addresses the question of faith, collective memory and identity, which is discussed from a cultural perspective. Krisztina Magyar explores conceptualization of the Church of England as a mother in four documents compiled in the 17th century by two prominent Puritan preachers, John Cotton and Richard Mather. Irén Annus focuses on the role of humor in religion. Although the author generally agrees with the quote "Humor and religion are not the best of friends", she takes a closer look at the Jane Austen adaptation entitled *Pride and Prejudice: A Latter-day Comedy* (2003) and explores the role of humor in Mormonism. Orsolya Anna Sudár presents the significant role of collective memory. Societies need continuity and connection with the past for their coherent development. The author analyzes two occurrences, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911 and the first bombing of Wall Street on September 16, 1920, to show the relation between the visual documentation, representation and expectations of urban trauma. Ivan Lacko analyzes the approach that Suzan-Lori Parks takes in *The America Play* to challenge the framing of African American history, culture, politics and language, and discusses the intricacies of the consequent reframing of these terms.

This book would not be possible without the help and encouragement of several people. We would like to thank all the contributors for their work and patience with the editing process. We are very grateful to Professor Paweł Laidler for his helpful comments and suggestions for

improvement. The Faculty of International and Political Studies and the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora of the Jagiellonian University provided necessary financial support that made the project possible. We would like to thank the above institutions, and especially Prof. Adam Walaszek and Prof. Adam Krzanowski for their generosity. We are also grateful for financial help received from the Bratniak Students and Graduates of Jagiellonian University Foundation. Last but not least, our gratitude extends to our colleagues who devoted their precious time to read and comment on the articles.

Anna Bartnik and Agnieszka Małek