

**Mid-America American Studies Association
2012 Annual Meeting**

Re-thinking “Mid-America” in a Time of Crisis

**April 1-3, 2012
Oklahoma State University-Tulsa
Tulsa, Oklahoma**

CONFERENCE THEME

“Mid-America” occupies a somewhat indistinct and paradoxical place in the American Studies imaginary. On the one hand, as part of the geographical terrain that gave meaning to westward migration, it has held a privileged place in the discipline and acted as an anchor for nationalist visions of American Exceptionalism. On the other hand, Mid-America continues to be conflated with vaguely defined terms like the “Mid-West,” the “Heartland,” and the “Plains” whose regionalist symbolism may undermine productive dialogue with the discipline more generally. Mid-America thus remains a largely ill-defined and anomalous entity within American Studies. For these reasons, it has become more important than ever to reconsider what Mid-America is and what it means to do American Studies in or pertaining to it.

This project of reflection and innovation is especially imperative for the Mid-America American Studies Association [MAASA], whose membership represents one of the most geographically dispersed (and economically ravaged) of the regional chapters of the American Studies Association. At a time when Mid-America is simultaneously invoked as “real America” and dismissed as “flyover country,” MAASA has a unique opportunity to challenge received orthodoxies about the political, economic, and cultural crises currently facing the United States. In the spirit of intellectual inquiry, MAASA scholars must take up the challenge to interrogate our assumptions about the meaning and history of Mid-America and its relationship to American Studies. And, as ever, we must develop new strategies for fostering intellectual community within the region and across local, regional, national, and global lines.

SESSION OVERVIEW

Sunday, April 1

12:00-5:00 p.m.	Exec. Board Meeting	Main Hall Atrium
2:00-4:00 p.m.	Walking Tour of Tulsa	Hyatt Regency Lobby
5:00-7:00 p.m.	Opening Reception	Dust Bowl – 211 S. Elgin Ave.

Monday, April 2

7:00-8:00 p.m.	Bagels and Coffee	B.S. Roberts Room
7:00 a.m.-noon	Registration	North Hall
8:00-9:45 a.m.	Session #1	
10:00-11:45 a.m.	Session #2	
1:00-2:45 p.m.	Session #3	
1:30-3:00 p.m.	Snacks and Coffee	B.S. Roberts Room
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Session #4	
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Reception	B.S. Roberts Room
6:00-7:45 p.m.	Keynote Address	North Hall 150

This year's keynote address is will be delivered by Professor Carol Mason of the University of Kentucky. It is entitled "Transnational Regionalism: The Case of Oklahoma."

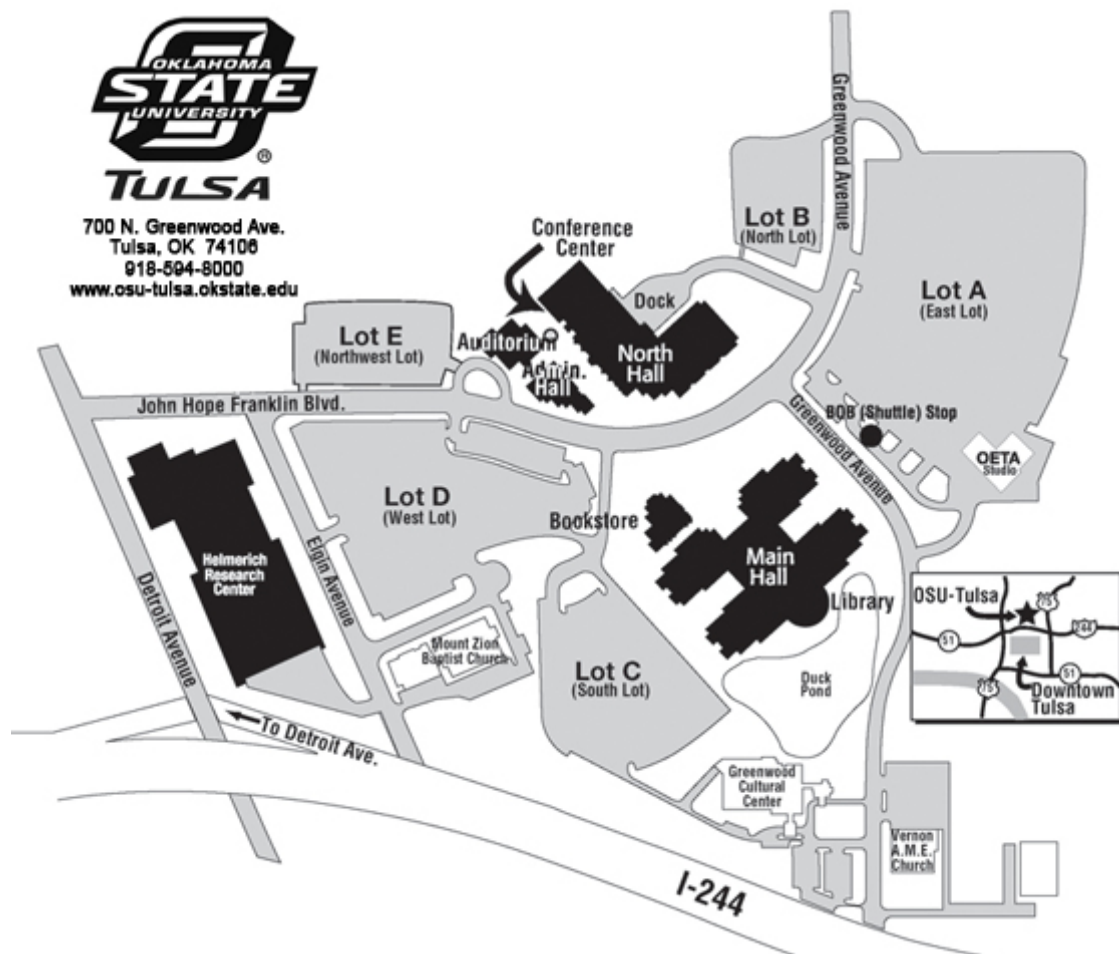
Tuesday, April 3

7:00-8:00 p.m.	Bagels and Coffee	B.S. Roberts Room
8:00-9:45 a.m.	Session #5	
10:00-11:45 a.m.	Session #6	
2:00-4:00 p.m.	Gilcrease Tour	Gilcrease Museum

LOCATION

All sessions of the 2012 MAASA Annual Conference will be held in the **North Hall** of Oklahoma State University-Tulsa. It is located at 700 North Greenwood Avenue, Tulsa, OK, 74106. Free parking is available. See map below.

The conference hotel is the **Hyatt Regency Tulsa**, located at 100 E. 2nd St., Tulsa, OK, 74103. The hotel's phone number is (918) 582-9000. Shuttle service between the hotel and OSU-Tulsa will be offered approximately every 20 minutes from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. Thereafter, call (918) 906-2134 for pick up at either the Hyatt or OSU-Tulsa.



REGISTRATION

Participants will be able to pick up their registration packets and name tags at the registration table just outside the B.S. Roberts Room in the North Hall of OSU-Tulsa. Those who have not preregistered can register between 7:00 a.m. and noon on Monday, April 2. The fees for this year's conference are as follows: \$75.00 for faculty and

independent scholars, \$50 for graduate students, and \$0 for undergraduates. You can preregister online at <http://asoutreach.okstate.edu/>. Just scroll down to “Conferences” and click on “MAASA Conference.” Or you can reach the conference page directly at: http://asoutreach.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=116&Itemid=71.

SUNDAY, 1 APRIL

12:00-5:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The MAASA Executive Board will hold a meeting in the Main Hall Atrium of OSU-Tulsa. Lunch will be provided.

2:00-3:30 p.m.

TULSA WALKING TOUR

MAASA will host a free walking tour of downtown Tulsa. Operated by Bandana Tours of Tulsa, the tour will cover the city’s famous art deco architecture and other sites. The tour will begin on the 2nd St. side of the Hyatt Regency lobby.

5:00-7:00 p.m.

OPENING RECEPTION

This year’s MAASA Conference will kick off with a reception at the **Dust Bowl Lanes & Lounge**, an 8-lane bowling alley and restaurant/bar in the heart of Tulsa’s historic Blue Dome District. The Dust Bowl is a short walk from the hotel.

Dust Bowl Lanes & Lounge
211 South Elgin Avenue
Tulsa, Oklahoma
(918) 430 3901
<http://www.dustbowltulsa.com>

MONDAY, 2 APRIL

7:00-8:00 a.m.

BAGELS AND COFFEE

Bagels and coffee will be available in the B.S. Roberts Room (North Hall 151).

7:00-9:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION

The registration table will be located outside of the B.S. Roberts Room in the North Hall. Stop by to pick up your name badge and registration packet.

8:00-9:45 a.m.

SESSION #1

1-a. **Practicing American Studies: New Approaches – NH 155**

Chair/Comment

Laura Rigal, University of Iowa

Papers

Paolo Gemme, Arkansas Tech University

“Bringing Multicultural Education to the Primary School: The Modest Outreach Project of an American Studies Jack-of-All-Trades”

Angela Lindsey-Nunn, University of Kansas

“Using Epigenetics and Biology in American Studies”

John M. Kinder, Oklahoma State University

“Practicing American/Animal Studies on a ‘Meat-friendly’ Campus”

1-b. **Dangerous (Midwestern) Sexualities – NH 153**

Chair/Comment

Jeanette Jones, University of Nebraska

Papers

Josh Sopiartz, Governors State University
“The Banjo and Sexual Violence in American Popular Culture”

Elyse Vigiletti, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign
“Class, Sexuality, and Authorship in Patricia Highsmith’s *The Price of Salt*”

Nathan Titman, University of Iowa
“Fraying Futures: Idleness, Mobility, and Same-Sex Desire among Chicago Tramps, 1910-1945”

10:00-11:45 a.m.

SESSION #2

2-a. **Examining Middle American Material Culture through Prownian Analysis – NH 155**

Chair

Allison Fields, University of Oklahoma

Comment

Corey Fuller, Oklahoma Baptist University

Papers

Garret Castleberry, University of Oklahoma
“Material Anarchy: Critical Reflections of Materiality Embedded in *Sons of Anarchy* Memorabilia”

Jacqueline Sparks, University of Oklahoma
“Nature Repelling Nature: Culture Collision in a Miniature Cedar Chest”

Sarah Katherine Beasley, University of Oklahoma
“Splitting the Atom: Embodiments of Contemporary Culture in a Titanium Yo-Yo”

2-b. **Place, Identity, and Otherness in “Midwestern” Literature – NH 156**

Chair Comment

Tracy Floreani, Oklahoma City University

Papers

Melissa Strong and Kiley Ging, Northeastern State University
“Place in *The Outsiders* and *Where the Heart Is*”

Eloisa Valenzuela-Mendoza, University of Iowa
“Resisting Totality: Joy Harjo's Levinasian Poetics”

Jay Whitaker, Oklahoma State University
“Virtus and Race: Cather's Eugenic Privileging in *Death Comes for the Archbishop*”

Trever Holland, Oklahoma State University
“Animal Wives, Maternal Fathers, Talking Dogs, and Urban ‘Indians’: Hybrid Identity in Louise Erdrich’s *The Antelope Wife*”

2-c. **What IS the Matter with Mid-America? – NH 153**

Chair/Comment

Stacy Takacs, Oklahoma State University

Papers

Derrick King, Missouri State University
“‘Death has Come to Your Little Town’: The Mid-American Horror Film and the Politics of Nostalgia”

Joshua Richardson, University of Kansas
“What’s The Matter With Post-Apocalyptic Kansas?: Media Images of Kansas in Post-Apocalyptic Texts”

Matthew Schneider-Mayerson, University of Minnesota
“The State of Mid-America: Is the Ron Paul Revolution Already Here?”

11:45-1:00 p.m. Break

1:00-2:45 p.m.

SESSION #3

3-a. Roundtable: “OSU American Studies Undergraduate Senior Thesis Projects” – NH 155

Chair

David Gray, Oklahoma State University

Comment

Audience

Participants

Angie Akers, Oklahoma State University
“Advertising & Children: Marketers’ Targeting of the Child”

Brandon Pappano, Oklahoma State University
“Embedded Journalists in American Wars from Gulf War I to the Present”

Miranda Neff, Oklahoma State University
“Gender and Identity in the Tulsa Girls’ Roller Derby”

Shirann Johnson, “Oklahoma State University”
“Praise Dancing as Subculture”

James Burrus, Oklahoma State University
“Brian De Palma’s *Scarface*, Violence and Masculinity”

Josh Guy, Oklahoma State University
“Zombie Movies and Zombie Walks”

3-b. Constructing Mid-Americas: Regional, National, Transnational Spaces – NH 156

Chair/Comment

Melissa Strong, Northeastern State University

Papers

Michael McCollum, Saint Louis University

“A Tibetan Home on the Range: Grounding a Buddhist Holy Land in the American Heartland”

Jane Simonson, Augustana College

“‘Is She Talking about US?’ Teaching Glaspell’s *The Inheritors* at a Midwestern College”

3-c. The Politics of Activism – NH 153

Chair

Jason S. Maloy, Oklahoma State University

Papers

Mark Koschmann, Saint Louis University

“Lutherans as Civil Rights Activists in Chicago”

Melissa Ford, Saint Louis University

“Between the Activist and the Deliberative Democrat: Occupy St. Louis and an Argument for a Dynamic Notion of Social Movements”

Andrew Rosa, Oklahoma State University

“Dodging Through Dixie: St. Clair Drake and the Quakers of Pendle Hill”

1:30-3:00

SNACKS AND COFFEE/TEA/SOFT DRINKS

Coffee, tea, soft drinks, and light snacks will be available in the B.S. Roberts Room (North Hall 151).

3:00-4:45 p.m.

SESSION #4

4-a. Roundtable: Emergent “Mid-American” Ethnographies – NH 155

Chair/Comment

Ben Chappell, University of Kansas

Participants

Amber R. Clifford-Napoleone, University of Central Missouri

Rachel Vaughn, Oklahoma State University

Andrea Clark, University of Kansas

Stephanie Krehbiel, University of Kansas

4-b. Roundtable: Publishing American Studies – NH 153

Chair

Laura Belmonte, Oklahoma State University

Comment

Audience

Participants

Matthew Becker, University of Nevada Press

Randall Jelks, *American Studies* and University of Kansas

Sherrie Tucker, *American Studies* and University of Kansas

5:00-6:30 p.m.

RECEPTION AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

A catered reception will be held in the B.S. Roberts Room (North Hall 151). All conference participants and attendees are welcome. Starting around 6:00 p.m., there will be a brief meeting of all MAASA members.

6:30-8:15 p.m.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

North Hall 150

“Transnational Regionalism: The Case of Oklahoma”

by

**Carol Mason
University of Kentucky**

Abstract

Inspired in part by Michael Moon’s 1998 essay, “Whose History? The Case of Oklahoma,” this presentation reads representative Sally Kern’s 2008 remarks about homosexuality as a “bigger threat than terrorism or Islam” through Jasbir Puar’s theory of “the sexuality of terrorism.” Mason will examine how the homosexuality-as-terrorism comparison Kern made depends on a denial of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh’s domestic terrorism and the white supremacy that motivated it. Further analyzing *The Stoning of Sally Kern* as a derivative woman’s narrative of white oppression that rests on a similar erasure of racism and colonialism, we will also see how Kern’s remarks – deemed by Ellen DeGeneres among others as backward, unevolved, and provincial – are actually part and parcel of a transnational discourse that “regenerates the civilizational missive central to the reproduction of racist heterosexist U.S. and homonormative nationalisms.”

Biography

Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at University of Kentucky, Carol Mason is author of *Killing for Life* (Cornell University Press, 2002), *Reading Appalachia From Left to Right* (Cornell, 2009), and *Oklahomo: Transnational Regionalism and The Queer As Terrorist*, which will be published in the SUNY Press series in Queer Politics and Cultures. Affiliate faculty of American Studies and Appalachian Studies at Kentucky, she also serves on the editorial board of *American Studies* journal published by University of Kansas.

TUESDAY, 3 APRIL

7:00-8:00 a.m.

BAGELS AND COFFEE

Bagels and coffee will be available in the B.S. Roberts Room (North Hall 151).

8:00-9:45 a.m.

SESSION #5

5-a. Roundtable: Utilizing Visual Culture as Amends to Misperceptions of Mid-American Academia – NH 153

Chair

Allison Fields, University of Oklahoma

Participants

Melissa Nuzum, University of Oklahoma

Melynda Seaton, University of Oklahoma

Garret Castleberry, University of Oklahoma,

Jacqueline Sparks, University of Oklahoma

Sarah Katherine Beasley, University of Oklahoma

Corey Fuller, Oklahoma Baptist University

5-b. Mid-America in/as National Imaginary – NH 155

Chair/Comment

John M. Kinder, Oklahoma State University

Papers

Patricia Oman, University of Illinois, Springfield

“There’s No Place for Home: Defining Middle America in the 21st Century”

Joshua Fisher, Arkansas Tech University

“The Rushmore Effect: Colossal Sculpture and the Centering of the Dakotas”

Allison Wanger, University of Iowa

“Brewing Nationalism: *Custer’s Last Fight* and the Emergence of Anheuser-Busch as an American Brand”

10:00-11:45 a.m.

SESSION #6

6-a. States of Contestation – NH 155

Chair/Comment

Amy Carreiro, Oklahoma State University

Papers

Justine Greve, University of Kansas

“Lighthearted Loyalty and Involuntary Patriotism: University German Programs in Kansas during the First World War”

Laura Rigal, University of Iowa

“Iowa City 1975: Urban Renewal and the Ephemeral Bodies of Ana Mendieta”

Jacqueline Kutnick-Bauder, Saint Louis University Law School

“Miscegenation in a Mid-America State”

6-b. Visual Culture, Commercial Culture – NH 153

Chair

Heidi Ardizzone, Saint Louis University

Papers

Adam Kloppe, Saint Louis University

“Images of Ragtime: Race, Gender, Musical Performance, and Ragtime Sheet Music Covers, 1897-1910”

Pablo A. Rangel, University of Nebraska

“Viva Vaquero: Imaging Mexican Cowboys in the Wild West, 1885-1924”

David Gray, Oklahoma State University

“Mapping Motivational Imagery”

2:00-4:00 p.m.

GILCREASE TOUR

To conclude the conference, MAASA will be hosting a guided tour of the Gilcrease Museum, home to one of the world's largest collections of art and artifacts of the American West. Admission is free, and transportation will be provided to and from the conference hotel.

Gilcrease Museum
1400 North Gilcrease Museum Road
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127
(918) 596-2278
<http://gilcrease.utulsa.edu/>

EATING IN TULSA

There are a number of restaurants located within a short walking distance from the OSU-Tulsa campus and the conference hotel.

MEXICAN:

Elote (get the puffy tacos! Good vegetarian options, uses sustainable practices)
514 S. Boston Ave.
918.582.1403
<http://elotetulsa.com/>

Mexicali Border Café
14 West Brady St.
918.582-3383
www.mexicalibordercafe.com

El Guapo
332 E 1st St.
918.382.RITA.
www.elguapocantina.net

Casa Laredo
403 S Cheyenne Ave
Tulsa, OK 74103
(918) 591-3998
www.casalaredo.com

PIZZA/ITALIAN:

Hey Mambo
114 N Boston Ave
918.508.7000
www.hey mambo.com

Joe Momma's
112 S. Elgin Ave.
918.794.6563
www.joemommas.com

Spaghetti Warehouse
221 E Brady St.
918.584.7363
www.meatballs.com

SUSHI:

The Sushi Place
115 West 3rd Street #100
918.574.8518
www.sushiplaceonline.com

Yokozuna
309 E 2nd St
918.508.7676
www.yokozunatulsa.com

DINER FOOD/BREAKFAST:

Blue Dome Diner
313 E 2nd St
Tulsa, OK 74120
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/BlueDome-Diner/266763247678?v=wall>

Dilly Deli
402 East 2nd Street
918.938.6382
<http://www.dillydelitulsa.com>

PUB FARE/BURGERS

McNellie's
409 E 1st St
918.382.7468
www.mcnellies.com

Fassler Hall (pretzels to die for!)
304 S. Elgin Ave.
918.576.7898
www.fasslerhall.com

Fat Guys
140 N Greenwood Ave
918.794.7782
www.fatguysburgers.com

Back Alley Blues and BBQ
116 S. Elgin Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74120
www.backalleytulsa.com

The Dog House (Gourmet Hot Dogs)
1101 S Detroit
Tulsa, OK 74120
www.doghousetulsa.com

The Dust Bowl
211 S Elgin Ave
Tulsa, OK 74120
www.dustbowltulsa.com

The Max Retro Pub
114-C S. Elgin Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74120
www.themaxretropub.com

DESSERT/COFFEE:

Mod's Coffee and Crepes
507 S. Boston Ave.
918.582.6637
www.modscrepes.com

Gypsy Coffeehouse
303 N. Cincinnati Ave.
918.295.2181
www.gypsycoffee.com

Topeca Coffee
115 W 5th St Suite 169
918.592.9090
www.topecacoffee.com

UPSCALE:

Brady Tavern
201 N. Main St.
918.949.9801
www.taverntulsa.com

Boulder Grill
17 W. 7th St.
918.585.5898
www.thebouldergrill.com

Juniper (reservation is recommended)
324 E 3rd St.
918.794.1090
www.junipertulsa.com

The Daily Grill
100 E. Second Street
Tulsa, OK 74103
www.dailygrill.com

FAST FOOD:

Subway
North Hall – OSU Tulsa

Quiznos
15 W 5th St
Tulsa, OK 74103

Arbys
324 S Main St
Tulsa, OK 74103

Coney Island
123 W 4th St
Tulsa, OK 74103

Teri's Coney Island
3 E 5th St
Tulsa, OK 74103

Dominos Pizza
16 W 4th St.
Tulsa, OK 74103

918) 582-3030

More about Tulsa food is located at the blog <http://tulsafood.com>. Nearby areas of town with good restaurants are Brookside (www.brooksidetheplacetobe.com), Utica Square (www.uticasquare.com), and Cherry Street (www.cherrystreet-tulsa.com). However, you'll need a car to get to these spots from OSU-Tulsa.