

# New Errands

The Undergraduate Journal of  
American Studies



**PennState**  
Harrisburg

Volume 11, Issues 1–2  
Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

The American Studies Program at Penn State Harrisburg is pleased to present the latest edition of *New Errands*, an online journal that publishes exemplary American Studies work by undergraduate students.

Seeking to develop the next generation of Americanists, *New Errands*' mission is both to provide a venue for the publication of important original scholarship by emerging young scholars and to provide a teaching resource for instructors of American Studies looking for exemplary work to use in the classroom. By recognizing and publishing the exceptional work of undergraduate students, *New Errands* hopes to inspire a new generation of American Studies scholars and to provide a forum to share their work.

Having resumed publication after a hiatus related to the COVID pandemic, *New Errands* plans to publish semi-annually, after the end of each academic semester. The goal will be to collect and publish essays produced during the previous term, so that they can be made available as quickly as possible for use in the following term. We encourage both self-submission by undergraduate students and nominated submissions by teaching faculty. Articles must have an American focus and can employ a variety of disciplinary methods. Those wishing to submit articles should refer to the instructions here: <https://journals.psu.edu/nc/about/submissions#authorGuidelines>.

Essays can be of any length, but they must have a research focus. Any visual images should be placed at the end of the manuscript, and tags should be placed in the text to indicate the intended placement of each image. Manuscripts should conform to the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style notes-bibliography guidelines.

***New Errands* staff:**

**Supervising Editor**

Dr. Anthony Bak Buccitelli

**Co-Editors**

Logan Daly

Joseph Gagermeier

Trevor Kase

David Wyche

**Journal Manager**

David Wyche

A Message from the Editor —

To say that the COVID pandemic disrupted life in America is an obvious understatement. Who can forget the masks, the social distancing, and the Zoom calls, not to mention the social stresses and political controversy surrounding our collective responses as we felt our way in this uncertain new world?

In putting together this issue of *New Errands*, we considered devoting it to articles focused on the pandemic and how the nation handled it, now that it is “over” and we all have some benefit of hindsight. However, we decided that American Studies scholarship has always been broad and varied, and that despite whatever crisis occupies center stage at the moment, our journal should reflect that. Interestingly, the submissions we received were characteristic of the continuing broad interest in the events, ideas, and themes that comprise American culture, literature, and history. We thought we could best honor that and also celebrate our resumption of publication by featuring not only new scholarship, but several articles selected by the editorial team from issues published in the years prior to the onset of the pandemic in 2020.

In his 2016 article, Roland Gawlitta scrutinizes the suburb’s universal claim of an ideal reality connected to the American Dream. The reality is different, characterized too often and too much by conformity and social pressures, as scholars, poets, authors, and filmmakers have depicted in calling into question the middle-class landscape.

William Kowalick, in his article from 2017, explores the interaction of social ideas, design, and material culture in the creation and widespread adoption of the Streamline Moderne style. Reflecting a forward-looking, futuristic ethos and the quickening pace of life during the interwar years, the style emphasized clean, simple lines and ease of use for the everyday household objects that were becoming increasingly important to the American consumer.

Delving into the structures upon which modern fan communities stand and the products they put forth, Alana Herrnson in her 2018 article uncovers links to the women's Shakespeare clubs of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, finding that their camaraderie and the foundations of female community continued into the female fan communities of television shows like *The X-Files* and *Star Trek*.

Beyond its intrinsic delights, music can also carry ideas, and even political meanings. That was particularly true of Civil War music, as Jordan Cohn tells us in his article from our 2019 issue. Music played a large role in spreading and reinforcing a wide breadth of beliefs, making the war as much a “musical war” as a military and political conflict.

In one of the two new essays selected this year, Kyle Loucks explores the history of lobster rolls, Maine and American foodways, regional identity, and class through the lens of material culture. The cultural scripts that accompany mobile foods like sandwiches can reveal important links between people, place, and diet. Loucks finds that the mobility inherent in lobster rolls helps to present and define regional identity for a broader American audience in a way that familiarizes "difference" within the American nation.

June 24th, 2022 marked the controversial overturn of *Roe v Wade*, sparking public protests, lawsuits, street art, and graffiti. In the year following the Dobbs decision, reproductive choice messaging in the form of stickers, pasted posters, and spraypainted works appeared on billboards, street signs, and walls across the United States. Ellen Patronas analyzes these ephemeral creations of visual culture to understand how they express a need to disseminate information, register protest, and empower individuals.

Four years on, the impacts of the pandemic are still being felt; it was an inflection point whose full implications will necessarily take time to be fully revealed. However, one thing has not changed: Our country encompasses more than the latest crisis, and our concerns and challenges are many, varied, and continuing. I hope you agree with me that this issue reflects that broad range. It is what we strive for with each issue.

## Table of Contents

<b>(2016) Rage Against the Machine in the Garden: Television, Voyeurism, and Hyperrealism in American Suburban Film</b> <i>Roland Gawlitta, University of Bath</i> .....	1
<b>(2017) Streamline Moderne Design in Consumer Culture and Transportation Infrastructure: Design for the Twentieth Century</b> <i>William Kowalick, Temple University</i> .....	38
<b>(2018) Women’s Shakespeare Clubs: Fandom in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century America</b> <i>Alana Herrnson, Barnard College of Columbia</i> .....	68
<b>(2019) Abraham Lincoln and the Music of the Civil War</b> <i>Jordan Cohn, Franklin and Marshall College</i> .....	92
<b>(2024) In the Palm of Your Hand: Lobster Rolls and Contradicting Performances of Regional Identity</b> <i>Kyle Loucks, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg</i> .....	126
<b>(2024) Bans off our Bodies: Categorizing and Analyzing Reproductive Justice Street Art Across the United States (June 2022 to June 2023)</b> <i>Ellen Patronas, University of St. Thomas (St. Paul)</i> .....	152