

# The United States in Change

The 51st International Conference

Organized by The American Studies Association of Korea (ASAK)

Yongin, South Korea

September 30–October 1, 2016

The ASAK is pleased to announce an international conference on “The United States in Change” to be held in Yongin, South Korea, between September 30 and October 1, 2016.

The United States was, and always is, “at a moment of change.” Contemporary Americans have experienced the emergence and pervasiveness of consumer and popular culture, mass communications, industrialization, (sub)urbanization, and multiple expressions of religious faith. It is not only domestic but also international development and forces that have shaped and reshaped the lives of people in the United States, as America’s interaction with the rest of the world has grown in the political, economic, military, and cultural arenas. Moreover, in the aftermath of the watershed 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act, the mass influx of immigrants from Asia and Latin America has radically transformed the demographics and identities of immigrant communities and of American society as a whole.

This year’s ASAK International Conference specifically aims at delving into the challenging and transformative dimensions of historical, cultural, social, political, and economic development in American society, both domestically and within a transnational context. We particularly welcome papers that focus on the phenomena and critical issues of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries in the United States, reflecting multiple contextual layers, crisscrossing the temporal and spatial moments of the past, and anticipating changes in the future. Special topics include the advent of digital culture, globalization, technological innovation, the deteriorating urban poverty, inequality in the neoliberal age, the emergence and development of global cities, the (in)validity of the American Dream, and the (in)effectiveness of the American political system. An analysis of an ever-changing United States, retrospectively and prospectively, will allow for a critical grasp and understanding of a range of the current socioeconomic and political issues facing both Americans and the world.

Paper topics should be related to, but are not limited to, the following areas and themes: American Studies, American Literature, American History, Politics, Sociology, Economics, Ethnic Studies, Urban Studies, Geography, Architecture, or a related discipline.

## **Suggested topics include:**

- ◆ Race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality
- ◆ Consumer and popular culture
- ◆ Expressions of memory in popular culture
- ◆ The politics of memory
- ◆ Film and television
- ◆ Digital culture
- ◆ Urban and suburban spaces
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Crime and policing
- ◆ National identity

- ◆ American government
- ◆ Social movements
- ◆ War and society
- ◆ Immigration
- ◆ Citizenship
- ◆ Multiculturalism
- ◆ Border and transnational communities
- ◆ Business and management
- ◆ Labor and global capitalism
- ◆ Global cities

You are encouraged to submit proposals on other topics related to the overarching theme of the conference. Interdisciplinary perspectives and new research methodologies are especially welcome.

Proposals may be submitted as individual paper proposals or as session proposals. Individual proposals should include an abstract of no more than 250 words and a one-page abbreviated CV. Session proposals should include a one-page outline with a title and topics for a session of three to four presentation papers along with individual abstracts and bios. Delivered in either Korean or English, each presentation will be limited to 20 minutes, followed by discussions and Q & A sessions. Graduate students are also welcome to submit proposals and to participate in the conference. All proposals should be sent to the Organizing Committee at [ASAKConference2016@gmail.com](mailto:ASAKConference2016@gmail.com) by **April 15, 2016**.

Applicants will be notified whether their proposals have been accepted by April 30, 2016. An optional registration fee of USD 150 for overseas participants will cover accommodations and some meals during the conference (more details below). Participants will be individually responsible for travel expenses including airfare and medical insurance, if applicable.

For further inquiry, please feel free to contact the Organizing Committee.

**Important dates:**

Abstract submission deadline: **April 15, 2016**

Acceptance notification: **April 30, 2016**

Submission of accepted papers for conference proceedings: **July 31, 2016**

**Registration fees:**

	Registration only	Registration and accommodations
Students	USD 20	USD 100
Standard	USD 30	USD 150

**Accommodations include:**

- Accommodations for two nights (September 29 and 30, 2016)
- 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches (September 30–October 1, 2016)
- Reception and dinner banquet (September 30, 2016)
- Two daily refreshment/coffee/snack breaks
- Conference program and proceedings