**U.S. Studies Online**

Forum for New Writing

The Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher network of the British Association for American Studies (BAAS)

# Call for Applicants

*U.S. Studies Online* welcomes proactive individuals to join its editorial board as of **June 2015**. We invite applications from enthusiastic doctoral and early career researchers who are committed to developing *U.S. Studies Online* in its support of the American and Canadian Studies field. The application deadline is **17th May 2015**.

# U.S. Studies Online

*U.S. Studies Online* is designed to showcase and promote the exciting research produced by postgraduate and early career researchers in the American Studies academic community. Drawing upon the interdisciplinarity of American Studies, this platform covers a broad range of topics, incorporating history, literature, politics, cultural studies, film, art history, gender studies and interdisciplinary method. The blog publishes between three and six posts a week from scholars of all levels and achieves up to seven hundred views a day. The [editorial team](http://usstudiesonline.com/editorial-team/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) and [guest contributors](http://usstudiesonline.com/blog-3/our-contributors/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) source and produce varied content that includes [research](http://usstudiesonline.com/category/research/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) posts; informal [interviews](http://usstudiesonlinecom/category/60-seconds-with/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank); “scholars across borders” [travel blogs](http://usstudiesonline.com/category/state-of-the-field/archives/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank); [book reviews](http://usstudiesonline.com/category/reviews/book-reviews/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank); [event reviews](http://usstudiesonline.com/category/reviews/conference-reviews/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank); [careers and professional development](http://usstudiesonline.com/category/skills-development/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) advice; collaborative special featured [blog series](http://usstudiesonline.com/current-and-upcoming-blog-series/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank); and an online [monthly book group](http://usstudiesonline.com/bookhour/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) on twitter. Read our mission statement here: <http://goo.gl/ksoqfF>

# Duties of Position

The co-editors are seeking a Publicity and Social Media Officer to help professionalise the publicity strategy of *U.S. Studies Online* and maximise the reach of its content. In this role the Publicity and Social Media Officer will work with the co-editors on *U.S. Studies Online*’s web development strategy and will be responsible for publicising each new blog publication on social media and reaching new public and research audiences.

This position is for a minimum term of one year.

The Publicity and Social Media Officer’s responsibilities will include:

* Developing the publicity strategy for *U.S. Studies Online* with the co-editors.
* Promoting the content of the blog on social media and assisting with *U.S. Studies Online*’s social media presence.
* Assisting the team with the titles, explanatory blurbs and, where necessary, presentation of posts.
* Proactively seeking out and engaging new communities and networks that would be interested in the posts published in *U.S. Studies Online*, through email, conferences and social media.
* Attending monthly skype meetings with the editorial team.

Once established in the role the Publicity and Social Media Officer will have the opportunity to edit posts as an assistant editor should they wish to. This would include:

* Assessing incoming posts for intellectual rigor, methodological approach and stylistic merit.
* Producing accurate and timely edits that include identifying and correcting grammatical errors.
* Formatting articles in line with the official style guide of the website.
* Identifying and approaching academics for new contributions for the blog.
* Developing and sustaining a good relationship with contributing authors.

# Skills required

If you would like to apply to become a member of the editorial team, please check suitability with the following criteria and complete the application form.

Skills Required

* Interest in the research of interdisciplinary American Studies, and knowledge of *U.S. Studies Online* and the American Studies community in the UK.
* Strong communication skills in order to liaise with the *U.S. Studies Online* editorial board and readership.
* Strong analytical skills in order to synthesise a wide range of information and locate key contributions to knowledge.
* Familiarity with key social media platforms (Twitter and Facebook) and knowledge how to use them effectively, along with scheduling platforms such as TweetDeck and HootSuite. Knowledge of Google plus and video/audio media is desirable but not necessary.
* Good organisational and time management skills to ensure posts are promoted in a timely fashion, deadlines are met and emails are responded to promptly.
* Computer literacy and basic knowledge of WordPress and Skype.
* Proofreading skills.

# Applicant Details

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| **Name** |  |
| **University**  |  |
| **Department** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Status (please tick)** | ❒ Postgraduate  | ❒ Early Career Researcher  |
| **Research Topic** |  |

# Personal Statement

Please provide a personal statement (500 words max.) outlining why you wish to join the editorial team and your vision for the website. Please indicate any previous experience and why you are an eligible candidate for the position.

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# Practical skills

A large part of the role will involve writing multiple taglines for posts that summarize what the post is about in new and interesting ways. Please provide some examples of how you would publicize the following posts on both Twitter (up to 118 characters) and Facebook (up to 150 words). Feel free to include hashtags and images.

1. Gae Pride Parades: The Impossibility of Queerness in Irish America at the St Patrick’s Day Parades by Gavin Doyle (<http://goo.gl/CcUveL>)

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Please briefly note some networks or online communities that would be interested in this post

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1. “Be broad, be bold and be aware”: Review of the 2014 HOTCUS Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher Workshop by Tom Bishop (<http://goo.gl/dCPPq0>)

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Please briefly note some networks or online communities that would be interested in this post

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1. Margot Blankier’s book review of Slavery in American Children’s Literature, 1790-2010 by Paula T. Connolly (<http://goo.gl/4MujnY>)

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Please briefly note some networks or online communities that would be interested in this post

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# Academic Curriculum Vitae

**Please remember to attach your current academic CV**, including any relevant activities and experience as well as research interests and skills relevant to the duties described on the first page.

# Finished?

**The deadline for applications is 17th May 2015**

Please send your completed application form to

Michelle Green (aaxmg1@nottingham.ac.uk) and Ben Offiler (benoffiler@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Michelle Green, Ben Offiler (co-editors), Emma Horrex, Jade Tullett (assistant editors)

