



BAAS
BRITISH ASSOCIATION
FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

U.S. STUDIES ONLINE

Forum for New Writing

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

— CALL FOR APPLICANTS —

U.S. Studies Online (USSO) welcomes applications for its new editorial board to begin its tenure as of **June 2020**. We invite applications from 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 **May 31, 2020**.

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 methods. The blog publishes posts from scholars of all levels and regularly receives more than one thousand views per week. The [editorial team](#) and guest contributors source and produce varied content that includes [research posts](#); [informal interviews](#); [book reviews](#); [event reviews](#); [careers and professional development](#) advice; collaborative special featured [blog series](#); and an online monthly [book group](#) on Twitter.



U.S. Studies Online is also home to the USSO annual [keynote competition](#), which provides an opportunity to further support the personal and professional development of postgraduates and early career researchers. Read our mission statement [here](#).

DUTIES OF POSITION

BAAS is seeking a team of **two managing editors, one content editor, one finance officer** and **three new assistant editors** to edit and source content for U.S. Studies Online. The editorial roles available are: **book reviews editor, events reviews editor**, and **Global Relations & BookHour editor**. Please specify which role(s) you would like to apply for in your application.

This position is for a minimum term of two years.

Please see below for general editorial responsibilities, and the duties related to each role identified above.

General editorial responsibilities will include:

- o Assessing incoming posts for intellectual rigour, methodological approach, and stylistic merit.
- o Proactively identifying and approaching academics and publishers for new contributions for the blog.
- o Developing and sustaining a good relationship with contributing authors
- o 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.
- o Proactively drive and develop innovative new features and segments for the website.
- o Organising and attending monthly Skype meetings with the editorial team with oral or written reports, as well as regular meetings with the BAAS Executive Committee.
- o Competency in the use of online systems such as WordPress to upload, format and publish articles.
- o Developing plans for USSO's expansion through grant applications and other academic funding sources.



Books Reviews editorial responsibilities will include:

- o Liaising with publishers and scholars in a professional and timely manner.
- o Keeping records of book reviews commissioned, in progress, and published, and sending copies to the publisher when required.
- o Periodically review the latest publications in the broad field of American and Canadian Studies. It is therefore essential to be engaged with current themes, debates, and literature.
- o Regularly update the call for review page on the website with new publications from a wide range of publishers.
- o Series on topical or interesting themes are encouraged, therefore we ask you to consider how you could bring something new to the way we approach book reviews.

Events Reviews editorial responsibilities will include:

- o Researching and locating local, national, and international conferences and events in— or related to— the field of American studies.
- o Updating the events calendar and keeping detailed records of current and future events.
- o Contacting conference and event organisers to secure reviewers.
- o maintaining existing relationships with networks and establishing new connections.
- o Providing detailed feedback on submitted work, ensuring excellent levels of diplomacy, tact, and professionalism.
- o Bringing innovative ideas for conference and event reviews, contributing to the development of *U.S. Studies Online*.

Global Relations & BookHour editorial responsibilities will include:

- o Liaising with the graduate sections of American Studies Associations abroad.
- o Liaising and initiating contact with international guest authors.
- o Commissioning and editing research posts, career stories and other blogs by international guest authors.
- o Promoting topics connected to international relations, transatlantic ties and border-crossing research on the blog.
- o Management of *U.S. Studies Online*'s monthly #bookhour, which includes leading the #bookhour team, choosing titles for discussion and archiving #bookhour discussions online.



SKILLS REQUIRED

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

General Skills required:

- o Interest in the research of interdisciplinary American Studies, and knowledge of *U.S. Studies Online* and the American Studies community in the UK.
- o Strong communication skills in order to liaise with the *U.S. Studies Online* editorial board and readership.
- o Strong analytical skills in order to synthesise a wide range of information and locate key contributions to knowledge.
- o Good organisational and time management skills to ensure posts are promoted in a timely fashion, deadlines are met and emails are responded to promptly.
- o Computer literacy and knowledge of WordPress, Dropbox and Skype.
- o Proofreading skills.

APPLICATION DETAILS

In your application, please include the following general information:

- o Name.
- o University and Department.
- o Research Topic.
- o Email.
- o Stage (e.g second year postgraduate).
- o Role(s) you would like to apply for.

Please also provide a personal statement outlining the following:

- o Your interest in the field of American and Canadian Studies.
- o Relevant skills and experience for the role(s) you are applying for.
- o Reasons for joining the editorial team, and vision for *U.S. Studies Online*.
- o Areas where *U.S. Studies Online* could develop in the future.

Remember to attach your current academic CV, including any relevant activities and experiences as well as research interests and skills relevant to the duties described.



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The deadline for applications is May 31st, 2020

Please send your completed application to:

usso@baas.ac.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!

- *U.S. Studies Online* Editorial Team

