

## Note from the New Editor

It is with great pleasure (and a twinge of nervousness) that I introduce myself as the new Editor-in-Chief of *JAAAS: Journal of the Austrian Association for American Studies*. I am taking the baton from my predecessor, Michael Fuchs, and promise that I will strive to steer this journal with the same dedication and enthusiasm he has shown. With this – the ninth – issue, the journal is still in its early years and yet much has been achieved under the first editor. The previous eight issues show both the breadth and depth of scholarship in American Studies, not just in Austria but well beyond. As one of the founders of this publication, Michael Fuchs has played an irreplaceable role in shaping the journal into what it is today, and his guidance and unwavering support (as well as seemingly endless patience with my limited technological literacy) have been instrumental in making this transition a (near) seamless one. At the beginning of his editorial in the very first issue, he quoted the Shakespeare scholar Terence Hawkes, who lamented: “It is never a good time to start a new journal” (v). Fortunately, such a task does not fall upon me. Instead, primarily thanks to Michael Fuchs, my job as editor – while undoubtably still challenging – has been and will be so much easier than it was for him.

I am also grateful for the generous support provided by the members of the editorial board, who have luckily decided to stay on and offer me guidance. Rest assured that I do not take lightly the trust that they have placed in me to help shape the future of this journal. Christian Quendler deserves particular thanks (and/or culpability?) since he was the first to approach me with the possibility of taking over the role as editor. Most importantly, he not only promised to support me, should I take up that offer, but has more than followed through.

When *JAAAS* was founded, a conscious decision was made to establish it as a diamond open-access journal since it maximizes accessibility to knowledge and also lets authors retain the copyright of their work. But “free” for readers and authors certainly does not mean that there are no costs involved in the publication of a journal. For that reason, I would like to thank the members of the Austrian Association for American Studies, who have supported this journal in the past with their membership fees. I am also immensely grateful to the University of Innsbruck and, more specifically, the Faculty of Language, Literature, and Culture, which provides substantial

funding for the project “Open Journal Publishing Office (OJPO)” that aids the publication of open-access journals edited by members of the Faculty. It is due to this financial support that we were able to take on two exceptional editorial assistants, Anna Kofler and her successor Maja Klostermann. Their meticulous attention to detail, dedication, and innovative problem-solving made the process of publishing my first *JAAAS* issue an absolute joy.

You may already have noticed that our journal has undergone a few transformations. For one, it migrated servers and is now hosted by my home university, the University of Innsbruck. The more obvious change is the journal’s new look. While the new design might not be revolutionary in its appearance, it represents a purposeful evolution that aims to enhance the reading experience of our journal. The redesign seeks to emphasize the importance of clarity, allowing our contributors’ articles to take center stage.

As we move forward, I encourage you to continue submitting your groundbreaking research and thought-provoking articles. I am excited to witness and contribute to the growth and success of our journal in the years to come.

As some planning but also a bit of luck would have it, my inaugural issue is at the same time a special issue on the childfree woman in literature, film, and television that I guest-edited. I hope that you, dear readers, will consider it a fitting start for my tenure.

Cornelia Klecker

## Works Cited

Fuchs, Michael. “Editorial.” *JAAAS: Journal of the Austrian Association for American Studies*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2019, [jaaas.eu/jaaas/article/view/103/63](http://jaaas.eu/jaaas/article/view/103/63).