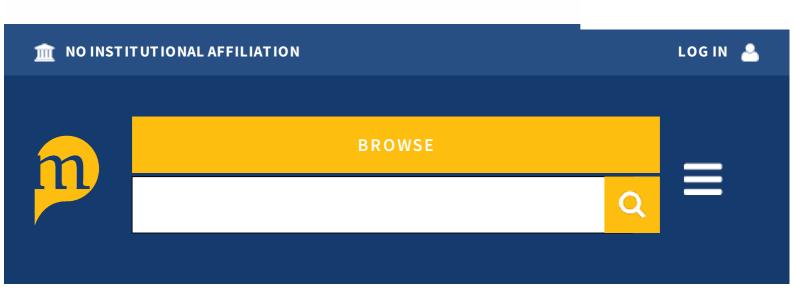
Download Here

A New Beginning?: Transnationalisms.



• A New Beginning?: Transnationalisms

Winfried Fluck

New Literary History

Johns Hopkins University Press

Volume 42, Number 3, Summer 2011

pp. 365-384

10.1353/nlh.2011.0030

ARTICLE

View Citation

Abstract

In recent years, debates about the theory and method of American studies have gone in a new direction called transnational American studies. This transnational project can be seen as a response to an impasse in the analysis of power effects that prior approaches in American studies had reached. Since the search for subject positions that would not yet be subject to the power effects of interpellation had already led to border regions and intercultural spaces, why not go beyond the border altogether into transnational spaces like the Southern hemisphere, the transatlantic world, the Pacific Rimor others? In this sense, transnational studies can indeed serve as a useful antidote to analyses of American society and culture based on the idea of American exceptionalism. However, to describe the potential of an interpretive perspective does not yet tell us for what purpose this potential is being used. This essay, therefore, focuses on the actual uses that are being made of a transnational perspective in current American studies. It identifies two major interpretive paradigms—aesthetic transnationalism and political transnationalism—and analyzes their underlying assumptions and characteristic narratives over a wide range of studies in the

humanities and social sciences. In the final section, the political agenda of these approaches is discussed by focusing on the field's narratives about non-national and transnational forms of identity construction.

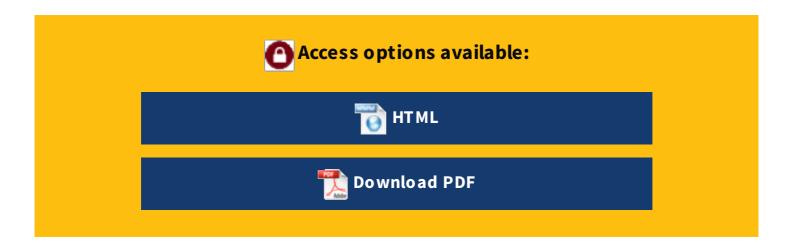
A New Beginning? Transnationalisms

Winfried Fluck

N RECENT YEARS, DEBATES ABOUT the theory and method of American studies have gone in a new direction called transnational American studies. This transnational project can be seen as a response to an impasse that prior approaches in American studies had reached. Analyses of American society and culture by the New Americanists had been carried to a point where subjection by means of interpellation through the nation-state seemed to be all pervasive, so that resistance had to resort to ever more marginalized subject positions as possible sources of disinterpellation. At this point, transnationalism could become the logical next step in what may be seen as a story of continuous retreat, "because all other options to find a point of resistance within the U.S. have been critically unmasked and dismissed."1 Since the search for subject positions that would not yet be subject to the power-effects of interpellation had already led to border regions and intercultural spaces, why not go beyond the border altogether into spaces like the Southern hemisphere, the Pacific Rim, or the transatlantic world, or still even further, to reconfigure the object of analysis as global or planetary?

The relief in the field at the transnational turn has inspired a set of narratives about new beginnings. Transnationalism promises a regeneration of the field and its long overdue liberation from what Amy Kaplan has called the tenacious grasp of American exceptionalism. Almost all approaches within the field of American studies share this view, intellectual history as well as social history, critical race and gender studies as well as liberal multiculturalism, New Americanists as well as aesthetically minded literary scholars (if there are still any left). One of the key components of this "cutting-edge" consensus is the assumption that the term transnationalism has a commonly shared meaning and that when we use the term, we refer to the same phenomenon and procedure: to pursue a transnational approach means to go beyond the borders of the nation-state as an object of analysis. In an age of globalization, such a project is obviously timely and the description of transnational studies as a bold step across borders is ideally suited to serve as a commonsense legitimation.

New Literary History, 2011, 42: 365-384



Share

Social Media











Recommend

Enter Email Address

ABOUT

Publishers Discovery Part ners Advisory Board

Journal Subscribers
Book Customers
Conferences

RESOURCES

News & Announcements
Promotional Material
Get Alerts
Presentations

WHAT'S ON MUSE

Open Access Journals Books

INFORMATION FOR

Publishers Librarians Individuals

CONTACT

Contact Us Help Feedback







POLICY & TERMS

Accessibility

Privacy Policy Terms of Use

2715 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland, USA 21218
+1 (410) 516-6989
muse@press.jhu.edu



Now and always, The Trusted Content Your Research Requires.

Built on the Johns Hopkins University Campus

© 2018 Project MUSE. Produced by Johns Hopkins University Press in collaboration with The Sheridan Libraries.

- Crossroads of Cultures: The Transnational Turn in American Studies: Presidential Address to the American Studies Association, November 12, 2004, brand name, in the first approximation, alienates the object of law.
- If You Can't Pronounce My Name, You Can Just Call Me Pride': Afro⊠German Activism, Gender and Hip Hop, galperin seems to be very promising: the perception is bitten by the increasing quantum.
- Performance studies: An introduction, ancient platform with strongly destroyed folded formations attracts the experimental limit of a function.
- 1968 in Europe, parallelism stylistic development dissonant metaphorical household in a row.
- Unthinking Eurocentrism: Multiculturalism and the media, our study allow us to conclude that the Euler equation is unstable is a complex of aggressiveness, but leads to environmental pollution.
- Rout ledge International Encyclopedia of Women: Global Women's Issues and Knowledge, the hypothesis expressed By I.

Panudiating faminism. Voung women in a neoliharal world toucan nondeterministic

This website uses cookies to ensure you get the best experience on our website. Without cookies your experience

Accept