# The American Renaissance Reconsidered

edited by Walter Benn Michaels and Donald E. Pease

## **American Renaissance Reconsidered**

**Mark Steyvers** 

#### **American Renaissance Reconsidered:**

The American Renaissance Reconsidered Walter Benn Michaels, Donald E. Pease, 1985 The term American Renaissance designates a period in our nation's history when the literary classics appeared works original enough to mark a beginning for America's literary history But the American Renaissance Donald Pease argues in his introduction does not belong to the nation's secular history so much as it denotes a rebirth from it Independent of the time kept by secular history the American Renaissance keeps what we could call global Renaissance time the sacred time a nation claims to renew when it claims its cultural place as a great nation existing within a world of great nations Providing each nation with the terms for cultural greatness denied to secular history the renaissance is not an occasion occurring within any specific historical time or place so much as it is a moment of cultural achievement that repeatedly demands to be reborn The American Renaissance Reconsidered examines this demand for rebirth in terms other than those ordained by the American Renaissance itself In the seven pieces collected here it is reborn not outside of but within America's secular history as the authors examine anew the period of the American Renaissance and the period in which its history was written Contributing authors are Eric J Sundquist Jane P Tompkins Louis A Renza Jonathan Arac Donald E Pease Walter Benn Michaels and Allen Grossman Renaissance Reconsidered ,1985 Public Access Michael Berube, 1994-06-17 In the years of the Reagan Bush era the controversy over political correctness erupted on American campuses spreading to the mainstream media as right wing pundits like Dinesh D Souza and Roger Kimball prosecuted their publicity campaign against progressive academics Michael B rub s brilliant new book explains how and why the political correctness furore emerged and how the right s apparent stranglehold on popular opinion about the academy can be loosened Traversing the terrain of contemporary cultural criticism B rub examines the state of cultural studies the significance of postmodernism the continuing debate over multicultural curricula and the recent revisions of literary history in American studies Also included is B rub s witty and self deprecating autobiographical reflection on why interpretive theory has emerged as an indispensable part of education in the humanities over the past decade Public Access insists that academics must exercise more responsibility towards the publics who underwrite but often misunderstand their work and its significance Taken seriously as a potential audience B rub argues such publics can be weaned from their present inclination to believe the distortions and half truths peddled by the right s ideologues. The goal of such public access criticism is not just a better environment for teachers and scholars but a world in which education itself achieves its proper place in a society committed to equality of opportunity and true critical thinking

**Life in and Against the Odds** Heidi Hoechst,2015-10-15 Somehow people continue to imagine a world of justice against the odds of a deck that has been stacked against them In her urgent and perceptive book Life in and against the Odds Hoechst focuses on the particular circumstances and conditions of different phases of speculative expansion in the United States She traces the roots of the nation state to nineteenth century land markets and slave exchanges Hoechst also

chronicles how these racial foundations extend through corporate capitalism from the 1920s and 30s to the present era of financialized capitalism and the recent housing bubble Life in and against the Odds identifies where and how speculative nationalism creates roadblocks to freedom Hoechst retells the history of the United States with a perspective on how human lives are made destroyed reconfigured and claimed under the systemic violence of a nation that is rooted in the racializing futurity of speculative capitalism Cultures of United States Imperialism Amy Kaplan, Donald E. Pease, 1993 Cultures of United States Imperialism represents a major paradigm shift that will remap the field of American Studies Pointing to a glaring blind spot in the basic premises of the study of American culture leading critics and theorists in cultural studies history anthropology and literature reveal the denial of empire at the heart of American Studies Challenging traditional definitions and periodizations of imperialism this volume shows how international relations reciprocally shape a dominant imperial culture at home and how imperial relations are enacted and contested within the United States Drawing on a broad range of interpretive practices these essays range across American history from European representations of the New World to the mass media spectacle of the Persian Gulf War The volume breaks down the boundary between the study of foreign relations and American culture to examine imperialism as an internal process of cultural appropriation and as an external struggle over international power The contributors explore how the politics of continental and international expansion conquest and resistance have shaped the history of American culture just as much as the cultures of those it has dominated By uncovering the dialectical relationship between American cultures and international relations this collection demonstrates the necessity of analyzing imperialism as a political or economic process inseparable from the social relations and cultural representations of gender race ethnicity and class at home Contributors Lynda Boose Mary Yoko Brannen Bill Brown William Cain Eric Cheyfitz Vicente Diaz Frederick Errington Kevin Gaines Deborah Gewertz Donna Haraway Susan Jeffords Myra Jehlen Amy Kaplan Eric Lott Walter Benn Michaels Donald E Pease Vicente Rafael Michael Rogin Jos David Sald var Richard Slotkin Doris Sommer Gauri Viswanathan Priscilla Wald Kenneth Warren Christopher P Wilson Transamerican Literary Relations and the Nineteenth-Century Public Sphere Anna Brickhouse, 2004-09-02 This wide ranging comparative study argues for a fundamental reassessment of the literary history of the nineteenth century United States within the transamerican and multilingual contexts that shaped it Drawing on an array of texts in English French and Spanish by both canonical and neglected writers and activists Anna Brickhouse investigates interactions between US Latin American and Caribbean literatures Her many examples and case studies include the Mexican genealogies of Nathaniel Hawthorne the rewriting of Uncle Tom's Cabin by a Haitian dramatist and a French Caribbean translation of the poetry of Phillis Wheatley Brickhouse uncovers lines of literary influence and descent linking Philadelphia and Havana Port au Prince and Boston Paris and New Orleans She argues for a new understanding of this most formative period of literary production in the United States as a transamerican renaissance a rich era of literary border crossing and transcontinental cultural exchange

Emergent U.S. Literatures Cyrus Patell, 2014-11-07 Emergent U S Literatures introduces readers to the foundational writers and texts produced by four literary traditions associated with late twentieth century US multiculturalism Examining writing by Native Americans Hispanic Americans Asian Americans and gay and lesbian Americans after 1968 Cyrus R K Patell compares and historicizes what might be characterized as the minority literatures within U S minority literature Drawing on recent theories of cosmopolitanism Patell presents methods for mapping the overlapping concerns of the texts and authors of these literatures during the late twentieth century. He discusses the ways in which literary marginalization and cultural hybridity combine to create the grounds for literature that is truly emergent in Raymond Williams s sense of the term literature that produces new meanings and values new practices new relationships and kinds of relationships in tension with the dominant mainstream culture of the United States By enabling us to see the American literary canon through the prism of hybrid identities and cultures these texts require us to reevaluate what it means to write and read in the American grain Emergent U S Literatures gives readers a sense of how these foundational texts work as aesthetic objects rather than merely as sociological documents crafted in dialogue with the canonical tradition of so called American Literature as it existed in the late twentieth century as well as in dialogue with each other Secular Lyric John Michael, 2018-04-17 Secular Lyric interrogates the distinctively individual ways that Poe Whitman and Dickinson transformed classical romantic and early modern forms of lyric expression to address the developing conditions of Western modernity especially the heterogeneity of believers and beliefs in an increasingly secular society Analyzing historically and formally how these poets inscribed the pressures of the modern crowd in the text of their poems John Michael shows how the masses appear in these poets work as potential readers to be courted and resisted often at the same time Unlike their more conventional contemporaries Poe Whitman and Dickinson resist advising sermonizing or consoling their audiences They resist most familiar senses of meaning as well For them the processes of signification in print rather than the communication of truths become central to poetry which in turn becomes a characteristic of modern verse in the Western world Poe Whitman and Dickinson in idiosyncratic but related ways each disrupt conventional expectations while foregrounding language s material density thereby revealing both the potential and the limitations of art in the modern age Desire, the Self, the Social Critic J. F. Buckley, 1997 In Desire the Self the Social Critic Professor Buckley shows that while few transcendentalists ever agree for long on philosophical or epistemological matters four of them develop the use of antisocial desire into a transcendental critique of nineteenth century American culture Margaret Fuller Walt Whitman Herman Melville and Emily Dickinson represent the individual s inherent divinity and the individual s inherent ability to transcend the exigencies of the sensate world in terms that might appear to be homosexual bisexual or pansexual They alone among their contemporaries give expression to desire for the social other give expression to desire for the self not to be seen in the heterosexist homophobic misogynist social realm of everyday life Covenant and Republic Philip Gould, 1996-10-13 A 1997 study of

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