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Higher Education

B.A. American Studies, cum laude, Amherst College, 1968
M.A. American Studies, University of Minnesota, 1971
Ph.D. American Studies, University of Minnesota, 1974

Scholarships and Fellowships

Welch Visiting Professor, Notre Dame University (USA), spring 2003
Carlsberg Fellow, Churchill College, Cambridge University, fall 1999
Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professor, Leeds University, spring 1998
Center for Mankind and Nature, Danish Research Council, 1996
Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study, Research Fellowship, 1991-1992
American Council of Learned Societies, Research Fellowship, 1986
National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship, 1981-1982
Fulbright Lecturer, Oviedo University, Spain, 1977-1978

Positions

Professor of History, American Studies, SDU-Odense, Denmark 1992-
Professor of History and American Studies, Warwick University, 2005-2006
Welch Visiting Professor in American Studies, Notre Dame University, 2003
Associate professor, American Studies, Copenhagen University, 1987-1991
Associate professor, American Studies, Odense University, 1982-1987
Visiting scholar, History of Science, Harvard University, 1981-1982
Visiting scholar, Science, Technology & Society, M.I.T., 1981-1982
Director of American Studies, Union College, New York, 1978-1981
Assistant Professor, American Studies, Union College, New York, 1974-1978

Distinctions, Honors, and Awards

The Leonardo Da Vinci Medal, Society for the History of Technology, 2005
The Dexter Prize, Society for the History of Technology, 1993
Able Wolman Book Award, American Public Works Association, 1991
Nominated for the Pulitzer Prize by MIT Press, 1998 & 2003
Fyens Stiftstidende's Research Prize, 1999
Elected permanent by-fellow, Churchill College, Cambridge University, 1999

Administrative Experience (selected)

Founder & Chair, Center for American Studies, Syddansk University, 1992-1996,
1998, 2003-2004, 2006-
Executive Council, Society for the History of Technology, 2000-2003
President, Danish Association for American Studies, 1992-1994
Vice-President, Nordic American Studies Association, 1992-1994
Executive Board, Danish Fulbright Commission, 1987-1997
Scholarship Committee, Danish Fulbright Commission, 1987-1997
Departmental Council, History Department, 2003-2004, 2006-

Professional Memberships

American Studies Association, European Association of American Studies
Danish Association for American Studies, Nordic Association for American Studies
Society for the History of Technology

Current Research

Electrification in the United States since c. 1940 [contract, MIT Press]
Nordic Perspectives on American Studies [contract, SDU Forlag]

Books and Monographs

Technology Matters: Questions to Live With Cambridge: MIT Press, March 2006. Reviews: *Times Higher Education* 1.12.05, *Nature*, 31.8.06
Second Creation: American Technological Foundation Stories Cambridge: MIT Press, May, 2003, 370 pp. Review, *New York Times*, 31.5.03
Consuming Power: A Cultural History of American Energies. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1998, paperback, 1999. 331 pp.
Narratives and Spaces: Technology and the Construction of American Culture. Exeter UP (UK) & Columbia UP (USA) fall, 1997, 224 pp.
American Technological Sublime. Cambridge, MIT Press, 1994, 354 pp. [review in *Boston Globe*, Oct., 1994; *Nature*, April 13, 1995]. Paperback, 1995
Electrifying America: Social Meanings of a New Technology, 1880-1940. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1990. 494 pp. [Reviewed, *New York Times Sunday Book Review*, September 15, 1991. NYT Notable Book]. Paperback 1992
Image Worlds: Corporate Identities at General Electric. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1985. 188 pp + 60 illustrations. [Review, *The Nation*, September 13, 1986] Translated into Japanese and published by Kyushu University Press, 1997.
The Invented Self: An Anti-biography of Thomas A. Edison. Odense: Odense University Press, 1983. 231 pp. [Reviewed in *American Quarterly*, 1985]
A History of the Youth Conservation Corps. Washington: U. S. Gov. Printing Office, 1981. 100 pp.
Henry Ford: Ignorant Idealist. (revised doctoral dissertation) New York: Kennikat Press, 1979. [Review, *American Historical Review*, October, 1980].

Edited volumes

Technologies of Landscape: Reaping to Recycling, (14 essays), University of Massachusetts Press, March, 2000, 292 pp.
American Photographs in Europe, 1840-1990. (15 essays, ed., with Mick Gidley) Amsterdam: Amsterdam Free University Press, 1994. 281 pp.
Consumption and American Culture. (ed., with Carl Pedersen) Amsterdam: Free University of Amsterdam Press, 1990. 239 pp.
American Studies in Transition (14 essays, ed., with Christian Kold Thomsen). Odense: Odense University Press, 1985, 324 pp.

Teaching materials and bibliographic work

Contemporary American Society. Copenhagen: Akademisk Forlag, 1st ed. 1990; 2nd ed., 1993; 3rd ed., 1997. 4th ed., 2001; 5th ed., 2003; 6th ed. 2006, 283 pp.
American Studies: A Source Book. (edited with Niels Thorsen and Carl Pedersen) Copenhagen: Akademisk Forlag, 1989, 257 pp. 2nd edition, 1993.

A Catalogue of the General Electric Photographic Archives, 1890-1940. New York: General Electric, 1981, 175 pp. 200 illustrations. 2nd edition, 1998.
Inventing Modern America. (with Niels Thorsen and Carl Pedersen) Copenhagen: Danmarks Radio, 1989, 116 pp.
"Industrialism, Business, and Consumerism," *Introduction to American Culture*, ed. Mick Gidley, London: Longmans, 1993.

Contributions to books (selected)

- "Critics of Technology," Carroll Pursell, ed., *A Companion to American Technology*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2005.
- "The Sublime and the Skyline," *The American Skyscraper: Cultural Histories*, Roberta Moudry, ed., Cambridge University Press, 2005, pp. 255-270.
- "Technological Prediction: A Promethean Problem", Marita Sturken, Douglas Thomas and Sandra J. Ball-Rokeach, eds. *Technological Visions: The Hopes and Fears that Shape New Technologies*. Temple University Press, 2004, pp. 159-176.
- "Visualizing Eternity: Photographic Constructions of the Grand Canyon," Joan M. Schwartz and James R. Ryan, eds., *Picturing Place: Photography and the Geographical Imagination*, London: I. B. Taurus, 2003, 74-96
- "Social Class and the Electrical Sublime," *High Brow Meets Low Brow: American Culture as an Intellectual Concern*, ed., Rob Kroes. Amsterdam: Free University of Amsterdam, 1988, pp. 1-21.
- "Electrifying the West, 1880-1940," *The American West, As seen by Europeans and Americans*, ed., Rob Kroes, Amsterdam: Free University Press, 1989, pp. 183-203.
- "Redeeming City and Farm: The Iconography of New Deal Photography," *Looking Inward/Looking Outward: From the 1930s through the 1940s* ed. Steve Ikringill. Amsterdam: Free University of Amsterdam, 1990, pp. 255-267.
- "The Expatriate's Space," *Americans in Denmark*. ed., F. Richard Thomas. Carbondale: University of Southern Illinois Press, 1990, pp. 72-77.
- "Yritysten Volukurvaus Ja Historia," [Corporate Photographic History], Valokuvauksen Vuosikirja: Finsk Fotografisk Årsbok, Helsinki, 1991, pp. 64-72.
- "Making American Studies Programs for Danish Television," *Exporting America: Essays on American Studies Abroad*. ed., Richard Horwitz. New York: Garland, 1993, pp. 141-162.
- "The Geometrical Sublime," *City and Nature: Changing Relations in Time and Space*, ed. Thomas Møller Kristensen, Odense University Press, 1993, pp. 29-44.
- "European Self-Representations at the New York World's Fair, 1939," *Cultural Transmissions and Receptions: American Mass Culture in Europe*. ed., Rob Kroes, Amsterdam: Free University Press, 1993, pp. 47-64.
- "Postmodernism and the Computer Society," *Affirmation and Negation in Contemporary American Culture*, eds. Gerhard Hoffmann, Alfred Hornung. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag, Winter, 1994, pp. 313-328.
- "America's Electric Cityscape," *Technology and the American Imagination*, Venice: Supernova, 1994, pp. 32-38.

- "Electrifying Expositions: 1880-1939," in *Fair Representations: World's Fairs and the Modern World*, Robert Rydell and Nancy Gwinn, eds., Amsterdam: Free University Press, 1994, pp. 140-156.
- "The Electrified Landscape: A New Version of the Sublime," in *Modern American Landscapes*, eds., Mick Gidley, Robert Lawson-Peebles, Amsterdam: Free University Press, 1995, pp. 77-100.
- "Taylorism and Fordism Reconsidered," *Performances in American Literature and Culture*, ed. Vidar Pedersen and Zelja Svrljuga. Bergen: 1995.
- "The Sublime Lift-off at Cape Kennedy," *Ethics and Aesthetics: The Moral Turn of Postmodernism*, eds. Gerhard Hoffmann, Alfred Hornung. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag C. Winter, 1996, pp. 343-360.
- "De-Realizing the Grand Canyon," *Emotion in Postmodernism*, ed. Gerhard Hoffmann, Alfred Hornung. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag C. Winter, 1997, pp. 75-94.
- "The Cultural and Historic Roots of American Icons," *Icons: Magnets of Meaning*, Aaron Betsky, ed., San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 1997, pp. 92-112.
- "The Energy Crisis as Cultural Crisis," in *Living With America, 1946-1996*, Rob Kroes, ed., Amsterdam Free University Press, 1998, pp. 82-102.

Refereed Journal Publications (selected)

- "Technology and the Production of Difference," *American Quarterly*, Sept. 2006, pp. 597-618
- "Electricity and Culture: Conceptualizing the American Case," in *Annales historiques de l'électricité*, 125-138.
- "Technology, Nature, and American Origin Stories," *Environmental History*, 8:1 (Jan. 2003), pp. 8-24.
- "A Moment of Synthesis: Recent Textbooks in the History of Technology" *Technology and Culture* 39:2 (April, 1998), pp. 292-299.
- "Don't Fly Us to the Moon: The American Public and the Apollo Program," *Foundation* 66 (Spring, 1996), 69-81.
- "Shaping Communication Networks: Telegraph, Telephone, Computer," in *Social Research* 64 No. 3, fall 1997, pp 1067-1092.
- "Path Insistance: Comparing European and American Attitudes Toward Energy," *Journal of International Affairs* 53: 1 (Fall, 1999), pp. 129-148.
- "Questions of Culture Exchange: The NIAS Statement on American Mass Culture in Europe," (with David Ellwood, Mick Gidley, Rob Kroes, Robert Rydell) *American Studies International* 32:2, 1994, pp. 32-44.
- "American Studies as a Set of Discourses," *American Studies in Scandanavia*, Autumn, 1985. Translated into Japanese, 1993, in a volume on American studies and theory, ISBN4-8411-0845-9 C3036, pp. 107-135.
- "'Negative Capability' in Wright Morris' *The Home Place*," *Word & Image*, 1988.
- "The Consumption of Popular Culture," *Text & Context*, Autumn, 1988.
- "Yesterday's Ritual Tomorrows: The New York World's Fair of 1939," *Anthropology and History*, Fall, 1992
- "The Workers' Museum, Copenhagen," *Technology & Culture*, autumn, 1988.
- "Photography as Communication," *Journal of American Culture*, Spring, 1987.
Also published in *English Amerikanische Studien* 3 & 4, 1987, pp. 363-374.
- "Republicanism and the Electric Sublime," *American Transcendental Quarterly*, Fall, 1990.

"On Writing the History of Technology," *Science, Technology, and Human Values*, Spring, 1984.

"Public Relations as Covert Political Communication," *American Studies in Scandanavia*, Fall, 1984.

Danish Publications [selected]

Introducing Denmark and the Danes, SDU Forlag, 2006, 79 pp.

Amerikanske Forbilleder (with Niels Thorsen and Carl Pedersen) Copenhagen: Danmarks Radio, 1989, 116 pp.

"Det Amerikanske fotografis diskurs," *Kritik* 88, 1989.

"The Organization of American Cultural Sites," *Engelsk Meddelelser*, No. 56. 16-21. Reprinted in *Moderne bykultur*, nyhedsbrev 7, 1990.

"Do Machines Create Cultural Differences? American Exceptionalism and Multiculturalism," *Traditions and Innovations: Papers Presented to Andreas Haarder*, PEO, special issue, June 1994, 185-200.

"Declension and Renewal: New England's Shifting Mood in the 1970s" *The Lost Decade: America in the Seventies*, ed., Elseberth Hurup. Aarhus Universitets Forlag, 1996, pp. 41-52.

"Naturbroer i Amerika," i *Naturminder*, ed., Jørn Guldberg, Odense Universityforlag, 1997, pp. 79-90.

"American Studies in Stereo: Nordic Perspectives," OASIS No. 35, pp. 19, 1998.

"Technological Prediction: A Promethean Problem," PEO 105, 26 pp., 1999.

Professional Activities

Executive Board, Society for the History of Technology, 2001-2004

IEEE Prize Committee, Society for the History of Technology, 1991-1994

Chair, Center for American Studies, SDU-Odense, 1992-1997

Executive Board, H-AMSTDY (Internet discussion group), 1994-1996

President, Danish American Studies Association, 1992-94

Vice-President, Nordic American Studies Association, 1992-1995

Member of American Studies Associations: ASA, DAAS, EAAS, & NAAS

Danish Fulbright Executive Board & Fulbright Scholarship Committee, 1987 -1997

Chair, Photography Section, American Culture Association, 1980-1982

Executive Board, Nordic American Studies Association, 1987-1989, 1992-

Executive Committee, New York American Studies Association, 1980-1981

Editorial Board, *Critical Studies in Mass Communication*, 1987-1991

Editorial Board, *American Studies*, 1993-1997

Danish Inter-university censor corps, Denmark, 1992-1997

Conference Organizer:

American Studies in Transition (Fåborg, 1984)

American Studies and Consumption (Sandbjerg, 1989)

NAAS biannual conference (Odense, 1993)

Technology and Landscape (Odense, 1997)

Editing

Co-editor *American Studies in Scandinavia* 1997-2003

Founder and editor of OASIS (Odense American Studies International Series), prepublication, 5 times a year, 1992-

Editor, NAAS newsletter, 1992-1996

Grant and manuscript evaluation (selected)

National Science Foundation,
National Endowment for the Humanities.

Technology and Culture,
Science, Technology and Human Values,
Journal of American History,
American Historical Review,
American Quarterly,
American Studies,

University of California Press
Columbia University Press
Chicago University Press
Johns Hopkins University Press
Oxford University Press

New York University Press
University of Virginia Press
University of Nebraska Press
The MIT Press
Cambridge University Press