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# Special issue "Rias" on 'the cultural significance of modernity in the americas'

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej [bazhum.muzhp.pl](http://bazhum.muzhp.pl), gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

**MARCH 15, 2007**

## **SPECIAL ISSUE *RIAS* ON 'THE CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MODERNITY IN THE AMERICAS'**

The third issue of *RIAS* will focus on the cultural significance of modernity in the context of the Americas, and its interpellation in the cultures and peoples of both Old and New Worlds. If the 15th century clash that was the cultural encounter of Discovery describes the origins of modernity, then the birth of modernity and its aftermath represent a potentially fruitful avenue for comparative cultural investigation. The study of culture in traditional academic contexts has historically been undertaken within the prescribed parameters of the nation-state and its official language, as well as within neatly demarcated chronological divides. With the advent of the new intellectual paradigm of the Americas, however, these seemingly stable categories and divisions have increasingly come into question, especially when considered in relation to the actual historical record, in which the many encounters and engagements of disparate peoples of the Americas across nations, languages, cultures and centuries often transcend the conventional academic boundaries that would seek to contain them. Considering the meaning of modernity in the Americas from this perspective opens up many possibilities for cross-cultural, multilingual, and transnational dialogue not realizable in more traditional contexts, highlighting the interactions not only of diverse peoples of the New World, but also their encounters with those of the Old.

We are particularly interested in essays and short position papers that explore historical points of contact or convergence between two or more peoples of the Americas or between peoples of both the New and the Old Worlds, essays that examine the academic significance of considering the interrelationships between historical periods, or essays that consider the conflict between the Americas as a new intellectual paradigm and traditional academic contexts. We encourage online submissions via the *RIAS* electronic submission platform. For questions, suggestions for topics, or paper proposals, and the like, contact the *RIAS* guest editor Cyraina Johnson-Roullier at e-mail: [cjohnson@nd.edu](mailto:cjohnson@nd.edu).