

AT A TIME OF CRISIS: ENGLISH AND AMERICAN STUDIES IN SPAIN



**Sara Martín Alegre (coord. and ed.)
Melissa Moyer (ed.), Elisabet Pladevall (ed.) &
Susagna Tubau (ed.)**

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**Works from the 35th AEDEAN Conference
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Hosting the 35th Conference of the ‘Asociación Española de Estudios Anglo-Norteamericanos’ (AEDEAN) at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona turned out to be a bigger challenge than we expected, given the situation of permanent crisis that Spain is living since at least 2008. The protests at UAB by students, teachers and administration workers that complicated so much the work of organisers and delegates seem, almost a year later, even mild considering the depth of the current attack against public university education carried out with the excuse of adjusting public expense. This is why we feel that the title of this volume could only be *At a Time of Crisis: English and American Studies in Spain*.

As Coordinator of the present volume, I would like to defend the very important role that conferences and their corresponding volumes of proceedings or selected papers have in academic life. In recent years we have seen them neglected by the official agencies granting accreditations and assessing research on the grounds that blind peer reviewing is not guaranteed by either organisers or editors. This has never been the case with AEDEAN Conferences, as this long-lived association maintains a rigorous policy by which complete papers and round table proposals are submitted in advance and reviewed by three peers. Thus, the quality of the work presented by the delegates is already guaranteed at the time of the conference itself and so is that of the ensuing volume of proceedings, as we modestly believe.

Yet there are signs of an academic crisis beyond the financial one in that not all scholars who attended the conference have chosen to submit their work. The worry that the word ‘proceedings’ attached to a volume may negatively affect the impression caused by an academic work published in it, is certainly having an impact on the decisions taken by senior and junior scholars of English and American Studies in Spain. Thus, although the 18 panels in which the AEDEAN Conference is currently subdivided are represented here (see the list at www.aedean.org), roughly only 60% of the papers and round tables presented are gathered in the volume. Hopefully, the other papers have been further developed and published elsewhere.

Finally, we begin with this volume an experiment hoping it will be soon consolidated. The publication of the papers and round table summaries as easily accessible documents online within the framework of an e-book will contribute, ideally, to publicising the works themselves and also the important task of the AEDEAN Conference in offering a yearly sample of the academic work carried out in Spain, within the large field of English and American Studies.

Sara Martín Alegre (Coord.), Sara.Martin@uab.cat
Barcelona, July 2012



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