

The Eighth Tampere Conference on North American Studies

Two Prominent Media Scholars at the Forefront of 'Border Crossings'

The Center for North American Studies at the University of Tampere is busy preparing for the Eighth Tampere Conference on North American Studies, April 22-25, 1999. The theme will be 'Border Crossings'. This time, the Tampere Conference will add a tinge of glamour by celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ASLA-Fulbright Program in a gala dinner at the Näsi Tower Restaurant on Friday, April 23, 1999.

Benita Heiskanen
Tuija Modinos
Jarmo Oikarinen

The Tampere North American Studies Conferences, together with their sibling, the biennial conferences organized by the University of Helsinki, form an internationally recognized forum for scholarly discussion on issues related to North American Studies.

The Call for Papers for the 1999 Tampere Conference issued last May has resulted in a flow of proposals from the United States, Canada, Mexico, and 15 European countries.

Two Prominent Media Scholars

The Conference speakers include two media scholars at the forefront of current discussion dealing with relationships between media culture and social reality. The keynote speaker of the Conference is James W. Carey, Professor of Journalism at Columbia University, New York. Professor Carey, who started his academic career in the early 1960s, became known as one of the earliest instigators of the study of communication and media with an orientation toward the study of culture.

Professor Carey's work also includes a significant historical dimension. In particular, his reappraisals of John Dewey and the pragmatists of the early 20th century have opened up new historical perspectives and proved relevant

for the current discussion in media research.

Professor James W. Carey is the author of *Communication as Culture: Essays on Media and Society*. The current interest in his ideas is illuminated well in a recent publication of critical essays on his work, Eve Stryker Munson and Catherine A. Warren, eds., James Carey: *A Critical Reader* (University of Minnesota Press, 1997).

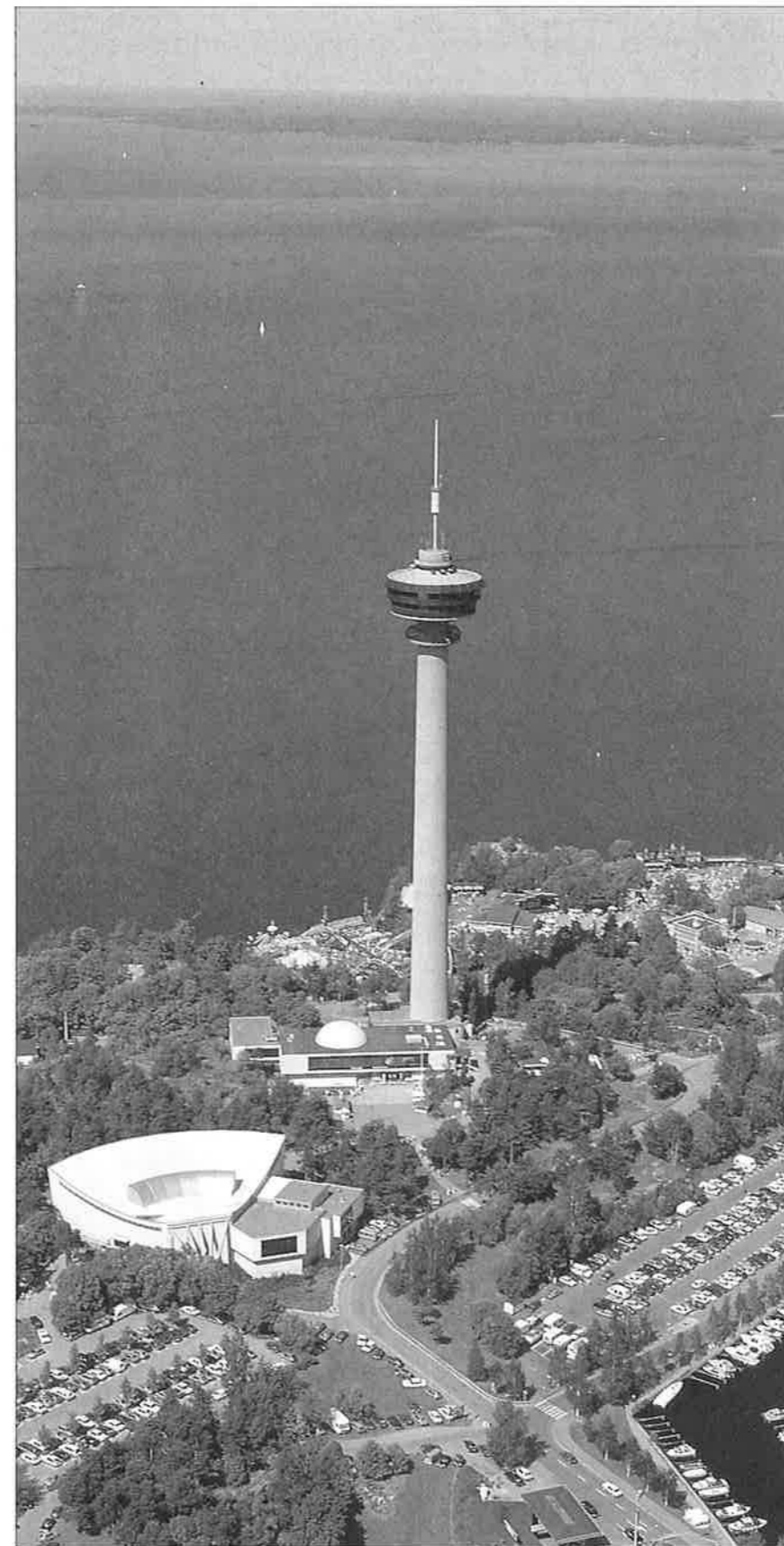
The Conference will also welcome Mimi White, professor of Radio/TV/Film and director of Women's Studies at Northwestern University, and an old friend of Finland.

Professor White was a visiting Fulbright scholar in Helsinki in 1994, when she taught courses on representations of Women on TV and in film at the Renvall Institute and at the University of Tampere. In 1996, she worked as Visiting Professor at the University of Jyväskylä, Department of Communication.

Professor White's research interests include media theory and criticism; gender and popular culture; and media historiography. She is the author of *Tele-Advising: Therapeutic Discourse in American Television*, and co-author of *Media Knowledge: Popular Culture, Pedagogy and Critical Citizenship*.

Identity, Community, and Globalization

The Conference will deal with the theme of 'Border Crossings' with four



Studies, University of Tampere, P.O. Box 607, Tampere FIN-33101, FINLAND (e-mail: NorthAmericanStudies@uta.fi, phone +358-3-215 7154 and +358-3-215 6554; fax: +358-3-215 6980). Please visit the Tampere 1999 Conference web site at <http://www.uta.fi/konferenssi/nam99>. ■

more specific foci: (1) Culture, Identity, and the Boundaries of Personhood and Nationhood (2) Technology, Culture, and Society: Border Crossings (3) Boundaries of Civic Community and (4) International Relations and National Borders from the Cold War to the Age of Globalization.

The list of confirmed speakers includes familiar faces as well as important first-time visitors. The sessions on international relations and globalization include K. J. Holsti, Professor of International Relations at the University of British Columbia; Warren F. Kimball, Professor of History at Rutgers University and former President of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations; and Christian Ostermann, Director of the Cold War International History Project at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington D.C.

Gala Dinner to Honor ASLA-Fulbright 50th Anniversary

In conjunction with the Eighth Tampere Conference, a Gala Dinner will honor the 50th anniversary of the ASLA-Fulbright Program. It also marks another year of fruitful cooperation between the Fulbright Center and the Tampere Conferences.

The Gala Dinner, held at the rotating Näsi Tower Restaurant with a fantastic view over the City of Tampere, will bring together present and past Fulbright grantees, conferees and all friends of North American Studies. During the dinner, the Fulbright Center and the Tampere Conference will announce the sponsorship of a grant for a gifted North American Studies student.

For further information about the Conference and the ASLA-Fulbright Anniversary Gala Dinner, please contact the Center for North American