

# Current Issues

in North American Studies and Cultural Studies

Lecture Series | Winter Term 2014-15

**NORTH  
AMERICAN  
STUDIES  
PROGRAM**

**Prof. Dr. Lawrence Howe**

Roosevelt University | University of Southern Denmark



## “Mark Twain and America’s Ownership Society: Property and Its Discontents”

Monday, October 13, 2014 | 6:00–8:00 pm | Room B, IAAK

Although property in the United States has been generally viewed as a benefit, Mark Twain reflects a more complex understanding of the vicissitudes of ownership. Seeking to explain various aspects of Twain’s experience with and writing about property across his career, Prof. Howe’s talk places Twain’s attitudes in both literary and legal-historical contexts, and examines Twain’s vexed relationship with property in a variety of forms.

Howe’s analysis participates in the scholarly project of “New Economic Criticism,” reading Twain’s concern with property in his life and writing as critical intersections with economics as a field shaped by rhetoric and narrative assumptions. After an overview of the literary and economic contexts of American literature and culture, Howe will discuss detailed examples of Twain’s concerns with land, slavery, and copyright.



Lawrence Howe is Professor of English and Chair of the Department of Literature and Languages at Chicago’s Roosevelt University. He currently serves as a Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Studies at the University of Southern Denmark in Odense. Howe teaches American Literature and Film Studies, and is widely recognized for his work on Twain, especially his study *Mark Twain and the Novel: The Double-Cross of Authority* (Cambridge University Press, 1998; paperback reprint 2009). He is also a contributor to *Mark Twain and Economy*, a special issue of *American Literary Realism* (2014).