What is American literature's purpose, and does it continue to have enduring value? Where is American Literature? offers a spirited and compelling argument for rethinking the way we view American literature in relation to arguably the most muscular and robust nation on the world stage over the past 100 years, and demonstrates why we still need it.

Levander challenges the very idea of American literature, placing it in a globalized context, and even subtly undermining the notion of the author. Refusing to speak of American literature as a body of work, Levander instead sees the genre as a varied and unrelated assortment of multilingual forms, ranging from instruction manuals and Twitter feed to novels and poetry. The original – and at times irreverent – perspectives will change the way we consider American literature in the future, while offering all of us a better, deeper, and more enlightened understanding of why American literature continues to matter.