STATE OF THE FIELD

American Studies in Sweden
in the year 2018

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Preface to the 2018 Newsletter

Where is the field of American Studies in Sweden? Who works in the field? And what scholarship is actually produced in Sweden each year? It is currently quite difficult to survey the field of American Studies, and to answer these questions. Since American Studies is not an established and degree awarding discipline in Swedish academia, Americanists in Sweden are scattered across universities, departments, and disciplines. As the national organization for American Studies, SAAS ought to be in a good position to provide an overview of the state of the field. This newsletter is our first attempt to make such an inventory. Our hope is that this will become a recurring newsletter to be published annually in the spring.

The newsletter is intended to cover the field in Sweden. It contains information on academic activities by people working at or being affiliated with a Swedish university or institute of higher education. The information has been gathered in January 2019 through the help of SAAS members who have filled out a questionnaire distributed by the SAAS board, as well as by the efforts of the board members themselves. Obviously, it does not cover the field in its entirety. But it does, at the very least, hint at answers to the above-mentioned questions.

Reading the list of contributions during the past year, it is clear that the field, first of all, exists and, second, that it is lively. For a discipline that, essentially, is not a discipline in this country, the 2018 inventory is a promising one. There were at least four monographs, three edited volumes, seventeen journal articles, and nine book chapters published last year. Reflecting on the future rejuvenation of the field, it is exciting to see that there were seven dissertations defended on American Studies topics, and that there were twenty-one courses offered at Swedish universities that concern North America. It is not surprising that the majority of the courses were offered at SINAS or the English Department at Uppsala University, but it is noteworthy that out of the six courses on the MA level, all but one is in American literature.

Since this is the first edition of the inventory, there is much room for improvements. It is likely, for example, that some categories should have been framed differently, or that we neglected to list some activities in the distributed questionnaire (it did not, for example, include media appearances or collaborations outside the university). If you have suggestions on how to improve the survey or the newsletter, please send a note to the board at adam.hjorthen@fu-berlin.de

On behalf of the SAAS board,
Adam Hjorthén
President of SAAS
The SAAS Board (2018–2020)

Adam Hjorthén, Freie Universität Berlin/Stockholm University (President)
Chloé Avril, University of Gothenburg (Vice-President)
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Oskar Nordell, Uppsala University
Markus Heide, Uppsala University (Deputy Member)
Joel Frykholm, Stockholm University (Deputy Member)

Publications

Monographs


Hjorthén, Adam, Cross-Border Commemorations: Celebrating Swedish Settlement in America (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2018)

Olsson, Lars, Women's Work and Politics in WWI America: The Munsingwear Family of Minneapolis (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018)

Edited Volumes


Journal Articles

Backman Rogers, Anna, “Imaging Absence as Abjection: The Female Body in Sofia Coppola’s The Virgin Suicides,” Screening the Past Issue 43 (April 2018),


**Book Chapters**


Blanck, Dag, ”’Sverige-America Stiftelsen 100 år: En översikt,’” in *Sverige-America Stiftelsen 100 år 1919-2019*, ed. Stuart Rosvall, Anna, Mattias Schulstad, Lizette Gradén, and Dag Blanck (Stockholm, 2018)


De Felice, Rachele, and Gregory Garretson, “Politeness at Work in the Clinton Email Corpus: A First Look at the Effects of Status and Gender,” *Corpus Pragmatics* 2, no. 3 (2018): 221–242.


**Miscellaneous**


**New Appointments**

Cananau, Iulian, Head of English Studies, Department of Humanities, University of Gävle.

Gilbert, Adam, Affiliated Researcher, SINAS, Uppsala University

Khavar Fahlstedt, Kim, Guest Researcher, SINAS, Uppsala University, 2018–2019.

Lindholm, Susan, Associated Scholar, Institute of Latin American Studies, Stockholm University.

Weiner, Mark S., Professor of Law and Sidney I. Reitman Scholar at the Rutgers University Law School in Newark, NJ, the 2018/19 Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Studies, SINAS, Uppsala University.


Östlund, David, Guest Researcher, SINAS, Uppsala University, 2018–2019.

**Dissertation Defenses**


Daugaard, Solveig, “Collaborating with Gertrude Stein: Media Ecologies, Reception, Poetics.” Division of Language and Literature, Department of Culture and


Funding and Awards

Ekelund, Bo G., Adam Hjorthén, and Oskar Nordell, Conference funding, SAAS 10th Biennial Conference, Magnus Bergvalls Stiftelse, 70 000 SEK.

Duncan, Joel, Literature, University of Gothenburg, “Bilens poetik: Experimentell amerikansk poesi och dess teknologi”, Vetenskaprådet, 2 400 000 SEK.

Heide, Markus, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Border Studies Archive, research fellow, Hilda Kumlin Foundation, January 2018.

Heide, Markus, Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership, 2018-2020, “Hostfilm: Hospitality in Film,” research cooperation with Universidad de Salamanca, Universidad de Valladolid, Universität Graz, Nottingham Trent University, and Maynooth University.

Heide, Markus, Research Network in Literary Studies (LILae), Faculty of Languages, Uppsala University, Conference funding “Enlightenment, Nation Building, and American Botany: The Bartrams and Linné,” 2018.

Hjorthén, Adam, the 2018 Loubat Prize (Loubatska priset) of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquity, for his dissertation Border-Crossing Commemorations: Entangled Histories of Swedish Settlement in America (Stockholm University, 2015), 150 000 SEK.
Thomasson, Fredrik, History of Ideas, Uppsala University, “Svensk karibisk kolonialism 1784–1878: Ny forskning genom integration, klassifikation, publikation av spridda och outforskade svenska koloniala arkiv,” Vetenskapsrådet, 14 400 400 SEK.

Tofighian, Nadi, Film Studies, Department of Media Studies, Stockholm University, “Amerikanisering och filmens utveckling i USAs kolonier 1898–1919,” Vetenskapsrådet, 2 400 000 SEK.

Vernby, Kåre, Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, “Jämlikhetsskapande förebilder: Ettvinjettexperiment om effekten av symbolisk representation i USA och Sverige,” Vetenskapsrådet, 5 200 000 SEK.

Courses on American Studies Topics

At SINAS, Uppsala University
American Studies I, A-level (30 hp)
American History I (7,5 hp), Online and Campus Course
American Politics I (7,5 hp), Online and Campus Course
Race and Ethnicity in the United States (7,5 hp)
American Media I: History and Theory of Hollywood (7,5 hp)

American Studies II, B-level (30,0 hp)
American History II (7,5 hp)
American Politics II (7,5 hp)
American 20th Century Literature (7,5 hp)
American Media II: Media and U.S. Presidents (7,5 hp)

At the Department of English, Uppsala University
B-level
American Literature and Culture B (30 hp), including American Literature (7 hp)

C-level
Writing American Selves: Fictional and Non-Fictional Self-Portraiture (7,5 hp)
Possibility of writing Bachelor’s Thesis in American Literature (15 hp)

MA Program in American Literature and Culture
Private Lyrics, Public Stages: The Rhetoric of American Poetry (7,5 hp)
Remapping America: American Literature in the World (7,5 hp)
Imagining America: Nationhood, Nationality, and Citizenship (7,5 hp)
Reading Race: America in Black and White (7,5 hp)
Shocking Innovation: British and American Literature 1900-1945 (7,5 hp)

PhD-level
PhD Program in English, with specialization in American Literature

At Other Universities in Sweden
Dominans, hegemoni och den globala ordningen (15 hp), BA, Department of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg
Organized Conferences, Seminars, and Lectures


“Ironclad Icon: Remembering John Ericsson in Sweden and America,” Thomas J. Brown, Professor of History, University of South Carolina and 2017/18 Distinguished Fulbright Chair in American Studies, the Annual Fulbright Lecture, SINAS, Uppsala University, April 10, 2018.


Individual Presentations and Lectures

For paper presentations and lectures delivered at the SAAS 10th Biennial Conference, please see the attached conference program (Attachment A).


Arping, Åsa, ”Rebranding ‘the North’: Swedish Novelist Fredrika Bremer’s Sudden American Success in the 1840s,” Workshop of the Network for Nordic Literary History Writing, Copenhagen, Denmark, March 8–9, 2018.

Arping, Åsa, “Sveriges Jane Austen: Fredrika Bremer och det svenska romanundret i USA kring 1850,” the National Annual Historical Course for Doctoral Students in Comparative Literature, Uppsala University, January 18, 2018.


Cananau, Iulian, “Toward a Methodology of Critical Thinking in Literature Teaching,” 20th Annual International Conference of the English Department, University of Bucharest, Romania, June 7–9, 2018.


Heide, Markus, “Minor Mobility: Child Migration and the US-Mexico Divide,” Dept. of English and American Studies, Potsdam University, June 10, 2018

Heide, Markus, “Borders: Comparative Perspectives, Germany, USA, Mexico,” University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, January 2018.


Hjorthén, Adam, ”Friendship, Power, and Innocence: Cross-Border Commemorations of Swedish Settlement in America,” the History Department Colloquium, JFK Institute for North American Studies, Free University of Berlin, Germany, November 26, 2018.

Holmgren Troy, Maria, “Adapting Ideologies: Stephen King’s ‘Kingdom Hospital’ and Matt Reeves’s ‘Let Me In’,” Maple Leaf and Eagle Conference, Helsinki, Finland, May 16–18, 2018.


Lindholm, Susan, “Remembering a Time of Crisis: Chilean Hip-Hop as Transnational Memory Work,” ESSHC Conference, Queens University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, April 4–7, 2018.


Miscellaneous

Heide, Markus. President of the European American Studies Network (ASN), 2018-2020

Heide, Markus, Founding member of the research network European Network for Minor Mobilities in the Americas (ENMMA), https://enmma.org/
Friday September 28th
Stockholm University

8:30–9:15
Registration
○ F building, third floor by the stairs

9:15–10:30
Welcome and Opening Keynote Lecture
○ Hörsal 9 (D9)
  What Is This White in “White Working Class”? Cautions on Easy Explanations of Trump’s Victory
  David R. Roediger, University of Kansas

10:30–11:00
Coffee
○ F building, third floor by the stairs

11:00–12:30
Panel Sessions 1, 2, 3, & 4

Panel 1. Modernity and the Market
Chair: Frida Rosenberg
○ E397
  Railroad System Made “Safety First Movement”: From the Experiences of Both Railroad Companies and Its Laborers
  Shunsuke Munakata, Hitotsubashi University
  Adjusting to Modernity: Self-Help in the Early 20th Century
  Kristina Graaff, Humboldt University of Berlin
  Tourism Promotion and Advertising in the Deep South under The Carter Presidency: An Analysis of Regional Destination Image through Visual and Textual Advertising in Domestic and International Markets
  Giuliano Santangeli Valenzani, University of RomaTre
Panel 2. Swedish-American Borderlands (I): On Stage and Screen
Chair: Adam Hjorthén

E413

Charlie Chan in No Man’s Land: Towards a Borderlands History of Werner Oland
Kim Khavar Fahlstedt, Uppsala University

The Diva Dream of the American Tour
Hélène Ohlsson, Stockholm University

Celebrated, Contested, Criticized: Anita Ekberg, a Swedish Sex Goddess in Hollywood
Ann-Kristin Wallengren, Lund University

Panel 3. Experience, Imagination, and Literary Form
Chair: Bo G. Ekelund

E420

In Our Time, by Ernest Hemingway: The Silent Covenant of Experience
Nathalie Cochoy, University of Toulouse

Imagination and the Wild: Reading Marilynne Robinson’s Housekeeping through Richard
Kearney’s Poetics of Imagining and John Fowles’ The Tree
Elisabet Dellming, Stockholm University

From “E Pluribus Unum” to “E Pluribus Plura”: Ortiz’s Native American Testimony
Panteleimon Tsiokos, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Panel 4. Sites of Contestation: Ethno-Racial Tensions in American Culture
Chair: Eva Zetterman

F420

Yellow Kid, Yellow Peril: Immigrants and the Birth of the American Comic Strip
Joshua A. Kopin, University of Texas at Austin

Letter to the World: Sheila Hicks and Abstraction in Mexico
Grant Johnson, University of Southern California

Ethnic Choice and Positioning in Nuevomexicano Mixed Heritage Writing
Judit Ágnes Kádár, University of Sport Science, Budapest

12:45–13:45
Lunch

Restaurant Lantis
Sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm
14:00–15:30  
Panel Sessions 5, 6, 7, & 8

Panel 5. Swedish-American Heritage: Nostalgia, Amnesia, and the Meanings of Place  
Chair: Dag Blanck

- E371
  A Folk United: The Swedish-American Genealogy and Nostalgia in the 1960s and 1970s  
  Adam Hjorthén, Stockholm University/Free University of Berlin
  Back in the Days: Selective Reenacting of the American Civil War in Sweden  
  Marie Bennedahl, Linnaeus University
  Forgetting and Remembering Bishop Hill: History, Amnesia, and Nostalgia in a Rural American Tourist Destination  
  Adam Kaul, Augustana College

Chair: Magnus Ullén

- E387
  An Illegal Violence: Property Confiscation in the Confederate South  
  Rodney J. Steward, University of South Carolina Salkehatchie
  “Colonies of Erotic Bacilli”: Tennessee Williams on Post-War European Stages  
  Dirk Gindt, Stockholm University
  Afro-Pessimism, Black Radicalism, and the Unbearable Whiteness of Western Radical Thought  
  Antoni Górny, University of Warsaw

Panel 7. American Horror and Gothic across Borders  
Chair: Maria Holmgren Troy

- F3154
  Intermediality in A Nightmare on Elm Street  
  Morten Feldtfoes Thomsen, Karlstad University
  Backwoods Horror in Swedish and American Fiction  
  Sofia Wijkmark, Karlstad University
  Placing the Gothic in American Adaptations of Nordic Texts  
  Maria Holmgren Troy, Karlstad University
Panel 8. Place, Space, and Landscape  
Chair: Elisabet Dellming  
F497  

Absent Places in Toni Morrison’s Novel Tar Baby  
Alice Sundman, Stockholm University  

From the Cityscape to the Rural Landscape: Annie Proulx’s Bird Cloud  
Tanja Cvetković, University of Niš  

Trauma and Heterotopia in Don DeLillo’s The Body Artist  
Sinem Yazıcıoğlu, Istanbul University  

15:30–16:00  
Coffee  
F building, third floor, by the stairs  

16:00–17:30  
Panel Sessions 9, 10, 11, & 12  

Chair: Dag Blanck  
E371  

A Postwar Italian Kitchen Shining in the Swedish-American Borderlands  
Franco Minganti, University of Bologna  

The Role of Design in the 1960s Swedish-American Landscape  
Frida Rosenberg, Royal Institute of Technology  

The Kansas City Connection: An Actor-Network of Sports Architecture within Swedish-American Borderlands  
Oskar Nordell, Uppsala University  

Panel 10. Universalism and American Literature  
Chair: Gül Bilge Han  
E387  

“Too Much of a Cosmopolitan”: Melville’s Cultural Geography of American Universalism  
Richard Hardack, Independent scholar  

Synechdoche and Power: Rethinking the Universalism of the Encyclopedic Novel  
Lucille Hagège, University of the Sorbonne  

“Partialist” and “Universalist”: Figurations of U.S. Exceptionalism in Antebellum Writing  
Iulian Cananau, University of Gävle
Panel 11. The Territoriality of Global America: The U.S.–Mexico Border in Contemporary Cultural Production
Chair: Eva Zetterman

- Mobility Welcome? Art and Recreation Zones at the US–Mexico Border
  Markus Heide, Uppsala University
- A Mexican Icon Transgressing the Border: The Queen of Selfies in Visual Art
  Eva Zetterman, University of Gothenburg
- Sounding Global Divides: Precarious Borders in Guillermo Galindo’s Recent Installation Art
  Birgit Spengler, University of Wuppertal

Panel 12. Children and Childhood
Chair: Alice Sundman

- “Brightening the Lives of Children”: The Sixth Fleet and its Impact on the American Politics of Childhood in Early Francoist Spain
  David Corrales Morales, Institute of History, CCHS-CSIC
- The Global Subjects of Korean-American Adoptee Narratives
  Lena Ahlin, Kristianstad University
- Making Babies, Making Home in an All-Female World: Reproduction, Sexuality, and Belonging in Nicola Griffith’s Ammonite
  Jenny Bonnevier, Örebro University

19:00
Reception
Stockholm City Hall
Hosted by the City of Stockholm
Saturday September 29th
Stockholm University

9:00–10:00
Keynote Lecture

Hörsal 9 (D9)

Environment Risk Narratives: Uncertainty, Anticipation, and Speculation in the American Climate Change Novel
Sylvia Mayer, University of Bayreuth

10:00–10:30
Coffee

F building, third floor, by the stairs

10:30–12:00
Panel Sessions 13, 14, 15 & 16

Panel 13. Musical Flows: Across and Beyond America
Chair: Chloé Avril
E413

Kantele, Jazz and Heavy Metal: Music and Transcultural Finnish American Identities in a Selection of Finnish American Fiction
Roman Kushnir, University of Jyväskylä

Dump Them in China: On the Prolonged Lifespan of America’s Musical Waste
Chang Liu, Heidelberg University

Boundaries of Sisterhood: A Comparative Approach to US and Latin American Hip-hop Feminism
Susan Lindholm, Malmö University

Panel 14. Poetics, Worlding, and Theory: American Literature
Chair: Jenny Bonnevier
E420

The Demands of History: American Superpower and the Vocation of Poetry in the 1980s.
The Poetics of Michael Palmer
Robert Österbergh, Uppsala University

The Worlds Philip K. Dick Made: Literary Worlding and Metadiegetic Objects
Bo G. Ekelund, Stockholm University
Panel 15. Trans-Atlantic Crossings: Athletic and Journalistic Exchanges between Europe and North America
Chair: Mark van de Logt

- Placing North America in Global Communication Networks, c. 1750–1815
  Troy Bickham, Texas A&M University at Qatar

- Professional Wrestling as a Transatlantic Spectacle: Race, Ethnicity, Class and Empire in Gilded Age America and Belle Epoque Europe
  Mark van de Logt, Texas A&M University at Qatar

- A Challenge to Exceptionalism: Reading the American Press in the Civil War Era
  Josefin Holmström, King’s College, Cambridge

Panel 16. American Surrealism
Chair: Kristoffer Noheden

- Metaphors and Things: Surrealising Robert Rauschenberg, 1959–69
  Gavin Parkinson, The Courtauld Institute of Art

- “This Place of Total Ambiguity”: Dorothea Tanning’s Chasm
  Anna Watz, Linköping University

- Possessed by Bugs Bunny: Animals and Ecology in Chicago Surrealism
  Kristoffer Noheden, Stockholm University & Film University Babelsberg

12:00–13:00
Lunch
- F building, third floor, by the stairs

13:00–14:00
Keynote Lecture 3
- Hörsal 9 (D9)

- Is There a Strategy Somewhere? American Foreign Policy during the Trump Presidency
  Frida Stranne, Halmstad University
14:00–14:30
Coffee
F building, third floor, by the stairs

14:30–16:30
Panel Sessions 17, 18, 19 & 20

Panel 17. International Relations and Cultural Diplomacy
Chair: Oskar Nordell
E413
Finalaska between Isolationism and Internationalism
Henry Oinas-Kukkonen, University of Oulu

Transnational Dissent: Case Studies in Cold War Cultural Containment, 1947–60
Jodie Childers, University of Massachusetts–Amherst

Securing US Internationalism: The Role of Public–Private Elite Networks in (Re)Establishing Post-War Transatlantic Relations
Anne Zetsche, Free University Berlin

The University of Iowa International Writing Program as a “Covenant of Peace,” 1967–2017
Janusz Kaźmierczak, Adam Mickiewicz University

Panel 18. American Politics: Ideas and Ideologies
Chair: Frida Beckman
E420
John Dewey’s Democratic Way of Life: Radical Liberalism and Religious Humanism
Bruno Hamnell, Lund University

Attacking Complacency: American Cultural Pluralism and the Social Settlement Experience
David Östlund, Södertörn University/University of Michigan

The Origins of “Political Correctness”: PC and the Lesbian Sex Mafia
Magnus Ullén, Stockholm University

Radical Yearning: Populism and the Politics of Nostalgia
Simone Knewitz, University of Bonn

Panel 19. American Indians and Settlers
Chair: Markus Heide
F315
Connections and Encounters on the U.S. Frontiers, 1876–1916: Hugh Lenox Scott and the Role of U.S. Army Officers in Imperial Expansion
Stefan Amirell, Linnaeus University
Panel 19 continued...

American Indian Treaties: One-sided Agreements
Roger L. Nichols, University of Arizona

Swedish Female Settlers on Reservation Lands in South Dakota
Johanna Andersson Raeder, Stockholm University

Inclusion, Exclusion, and the Construction of Nationhood in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda
Debra Hanson, Virginia Commonwealth University

Panel 20. American Media: TV and Film
Chair: Joel Frykholm

F320

Freedom from Disease: The War on Cancer and the Cancer Myth as Tacit Global Covenant in American Television
Manuela Neuwirth, University of Graz

Over Their Dead Bodies: Gender, Politics, and the Fabled Future in House of Cards
Yuwei Ge, Philipps University of Marburg

Beyond Simulacrum: Western in Westworld
Stevan Bradić, University of Novi Sad

19:00
Conference Dinner

Restaurant Hasselbacken
Hazéliusbacken 20, Djurgården, Stockholm
Sunday September 30th
ABF-huset
● Sveavägen 41, Stockholm

10:00–11:00
SAAS General Meeting
● Brantingrummet

12:00–13:30
Panel Discussion
● Z-salen

The End of the American Century? A Panel on Politics, History, and the U.S. Role in the World

The United States is a global superpower in transformation. In 1941, the journalist Henry Luce famously wrote that the 20th century was “the American century,” shaped by American political, ideological, and moral leadership. There are indications that this era is coming to an end. What international role does the United States play during the presidency of Donald J. Trump? How has it changed historically? And why do we care so much about U.S. politics in Sweden?

In this roundtable – which is open to the general public – three prominent scholars discuss American politics from an international and historical perspective.

Discussants: David R. Roediger, University of Kansas
Frida Stranne, Halmstad University
Dag Blanck, Uppsala University

Moderator: Frida Beckman, Stockholm University