

Program

Currents and Countercurrents

The 23rd biennial Nordic Association for American Studies (NAAS) conference 2013
Friday May 24-Sunday May 26, 2013



Photo courtesy of Andreas Lind, Karlstad University

Friday May 24

8:30- Registration

9:00-9:15 Welcome (Fröding, 1B 364)

9:15-10:15 **Plenary** (Fröding, 1B 364): Caroline Levander, Rice University, USA: “Where is American Literature?”

10:15-10:45 Coffee

10:45-12:15 **Parallel workshop/panel sessions**

A. Race/Ethnicity (room 1D 327)

Chair: Chloé Avril, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

- Gunlög Fur, Linnaeus University, Sweden: “Indians Traveling East”
- David Goldfield, University of North Carolina, USA: “Election 2012 and the American Cultural Divide: Race, Religion, and Gender”

B. Postmodern Fiction and Television (room 1D 328)

Chair: Morten Feldtfos Thomsen, Karlstad University, Sweden

- Julia Leyda, Sophia University, Japan: “‘It’s not a trick, Michael’: Narrative Complexity and the Housing Bubble in *Arrested Development*”
- Ausra Paulauskiene, LCC International University, Lithuania: “Representation of Post-Socialism in American Postmodern Literature”
- Julia Coursey, St. John’s College, USA: “Too Much Fun: Community and the Individual in David Foster Wallace’s *Infinite Jest*”
- Richard Hardack, Independent Scholar: “‘Bright Days for the Black Market’: Class and Other Warfares in Postmodern U.S. Fiction”

C. 19th-Century Literature (room 1D 340)

Chair: Maria Holmgren Troy, Karlstad University, Sweden

- Iulian Cananau, University of Gävle, Sweden: “Poe and the New Order of Free Enterprise Capitalism”
- Magnus Ullén, Karlstad University, Sweden: “Dante in America: Charles Eliot Norton and the Suppression of Allegory”
- Anders Olsson, Mid Sweden University, Sweden: “Fredrika Bremer and Margaret Fuller: A Current Encounter”

12:15-1:15 Lunch, Transformum

NAAS board meeting (room 1B 347)

1:15-2:45 **Parallel workshop/panel sessions**

A. Currents and Countercurrents in Scandinavian-American Relations, I (room 1D 327)

Chair: Dag Blanck, Uppsala University, Sweden

- Jørn Brøndal, University of Southern Denmark: “‘The Fairest Among the So-called White Races’: Portrayals of Scandinavian Americans in the Filiopietistic Literature of the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries”
- Christa Holm Vogelius, University of Michigan, USA: “‘Our Viking Ancestors’: The Scandinavian ‘Discovery’ of America and US Literary History”
- Gudrun Björk Gudsteins, University of Iceland: “Inclusive Scandinavian Identity Themes in North America”

B. Native American Film and Fiction (room 1D 328)

Chair: Mark Troy, Karlstad University, Sweden

- Liz Kella, Södertörn University, Sweden: “Countering Captivity in Popular Genres: *The Only Good Indian and Older Than America*”
- Marianne Kongerslev, University of Southern Denmark: “The ‘Own-Headed,’ Changing One: Double-Voicedness in Mourning Dove’s *Cogewea*”
- Tina Parke-Sutherland, Stephens College, USA: “Dances without Wolves: Time Magic in the Novels of Sherman Alexie, Louise Erdrich, and James Welch”

C. Conservatism: An Enduring Countercurrent in American Politics? I (room 1D 340)

Chair: Alf Tomas Tønnessen, Volda University College, Norway

- G.H. Joost Baarssen, TU Dortmund University, Germany: “Conservative Hard Currency: Anti-Europeanism as Current and Countercurrent in Jefferson, Hoover, and Romney”
- Niels Bjerre-Poulsen, University of Southern Denmark: “From Birchers to Birthers – analyzing ‘the Radical Right’ then and now”
- Alf Tomas Tønnessen, Volda University College, Norway: “Goldwater, Ryan, and the dangerous honesty of the Republican Party”

2:45-3:15 Coffee

3:15-4:15 **Plenary** (DAAS) (Fröding, 1B 364): Russell Duncan, University of Copenhagen, Denmark: “Defying History: Old Man West and the Young Chinese Cinderella”

4:30- **NAAS general meeting** (Fröding, 1B 364)

6:30-8:30 Conference reception at the Swedish American Center, the national institute for migration research and cultural exchange

Saturday May 25

9:15-10:15 **Plenary** (SAAS) (Fröding, 1B 364): Jenny Bonnevier, Örebro University, Sweden: “Born in the USA: Representations of Reproductive Technology and the Politics of Family”

10:15-10:45 Coffee

10:45-12:15 **Parallel workshop/panel sessions**

A. Currents and Countercurrents in Scandinavian-American Relations, II (room 1D 327)

Chair: Dag Blanck, Uppsala University, Sweden

- Christopher M. Sterba, University of Bergen, Norway/ San Francisco State University, USA: “The ‘Viking’ Origins of Left Coast Politics: Scandinavians and San Francisco Labor, 1890-1934”
- Jens Björk Andersson, Linnaeus University, Sweden: “Drawing the Color Line – the making of whiteness in a Swedish-American newspaper in the early 1880s”

- David C. Mauk, University of Oslo, Norway: “Norwegian Royal Visits to the Twin Cities in War and Peace, 1925-1975”

B. Literary Genres (room 1D 328)

Chair: Elisabeth Wennö, Karlstad University, Sweden

- Chloé Avril, University of Gothenburg, Sweden: “‘Why Can’t You All be Like Perry Mason?’: Black Panther Autobiography Meets Crime Fiction”
- Antoine Dechêne, University of Liège/CIPA/Belspo, Belgium: “Reconsidering the Metaphysical Detective Story: The Case of Paul Auster”
- Helena Wahlström, Uppsala University, Sweden: “Making Home, Building Kinship: Contemporary Orphan Stories”

C. Empire and the Notion of Progress (room 1D 340)

Chair: Eva Zetterman, Karlstad University, Sweden

- Ari Helo, University of Oulu, Finland: “American Politics and the Jeffersonian Notion of Progress”
- Abby Goode, Rice University, USA: “Infertile America: (Counter)currents of Nationalist-Natalist Rhetoric”
- AnaMaria Seglie, Rice University, USA: “Empire’s Legacies: Protestant America and the Hemisphere’s Catholic Past in Irving’s *Columbus*, Prescott’s *Mexico*, and McGee’s *Catholic History*”
- Mekonnen Tesfahuney, Karlstad University, Sweden: “Twilight of the Trans-Atlantic Empire”

D. Music (room 1D 341)

Chair: Magnus Ullén, Karlstad University, Sweden

- Mario Dunkel, TU Dortmund University, Germany: “Traditionalism, Modernism, and the Construction of Jazz History”
- Mischa van Kan, University of Gothenburg, Sweden: “From ‘Ack Värmeland du sköna’ to ‘Dear Old Stockholm’: the successful Swedish-American co-operation in jazz”
- Cristina Ruotolo, San Francisco State University, USA: “Cultivating ‘a serious and living relationship with music’: Theodor Adorno’s WNYC radio project”

12:15-1:15 Lunch, Transformum

SAAS board meeting (room 1B 347)

1:15-2:45 **Parallel workshop/panel sessions**

A. Currents and Countercurrents in Scandinavian-American Relations, III (room 1D 327)

Chair: Dag Blanck, Uppsala University, Sweden

- Ulf Jonas Björk, Indiana University-Indianapolis, USA: “Far Darker than the Ikea Paradise of Sensible Volvos: American Perceptions of Sweden Filtered Through Crime Fiction”
- Bo G Ekelund, Stockholm University, Sweden: “Translations of US literature: patterns of transmission in the Swedish field, 1990-2005”
- Dag Blanck, Uppsala University, Sweden: “The Changing Role of Ethnicity in Swedish-American Relations During the 20th Century”

B. Literature and (Im)migration (room 1D 328)

Chair: Liz Kella, Södertörn University, Sweden

- Lena Ahlin, Kristianstad University, Sweden: “‘And we knew it would only be a matter of time until all traces of us were gone’: Julie Otsuka and Japanese American incarceration during World War II”
- Clara Juncker, University of Southern Denmark: “The West in Asia/Asia in the West: Ha Jin’s *Nanjing Requiem* (2012)”
- Roy Goldblatt, University of Eastern Finland: “Ganz Ganavish: Gary Shteyngart in the Tradition of Jewish-American Immigrant Literature”

C. American Evangelicalism across the Atlantic in the 1950s and 1960s (room 1D 340)

Chair: Randall Stephens, Northumbria University, UK

- Hilde Løvdal, Independent Scholar: “‘Daddy, where’ve you been?’ Billy Graham as Family Man and World Evangelist”
- Randall Stephens, Northumbria University, UK: “‘Stamp out the Beatles!’ The Evangelical and Fundamentalist Response to the Bigger-than-Jesus Controversy”
- Uta Balbier, King’s College, UK: “Selling Soap and Salvation: Billy Graham’s Consumer Rhetoric in Germany and the United States in the 1950s”

D. 9/11, Memory, and Trauma (room 1D 341)

Chair: Helena Wahlström, Uppsala University, Sweden

- Stephanie Aziz, University of Southern Denmark: “‘A common field one day, a field of honor forever’: Remembering Flight 93”
- John F. Moe, The Ohio State University, USA: “American Identity and the Folklore of Crisis: Millennial Generation Narratives of Trauma and Survival After 9/11”
- Laura Castor, University of Tromsø, Norway: “American Undercurrents in the 21st Century: Trauma, Survival, and the Role of the Witness in Nicole Krauss’s *Man Walks Into a Room*”

2:45-3:15 Coffee

3:15-4:15 **Plenary** (Fröding, 1B 364): Matthew Frye Jacobson, Yale University, USA: “The Historian’s Eye: Race and Society in Obama’s America”

4:15-5:45 **Parallel workshop/panel sessions**

A. Utopia and Post-Apocalypse (room 1D 327)

Chair: Andreas Nyström, Karlstad University, Sweden

- Maria Bäcke, Karlstad University, Sweden: “Utopia in James Patrick Kelly’s *Burn* and in Second Life’s Midian City and Neufreistadt”
- Anna Hellén, University of Borås, Sweden: “‘The Spectacle of a Lost Future’: Rick Moody’s Suburban Apocalypse”
- Robert Mikkelsen, Østfold University College, Norway: “‘There’s Still Time, Brother’ – Narratives of Doom from *On The Beach* to *Sixty Days and Counting*”

B. Visuality (room 1D 328)

Chair: Morten Feldtfos Thomsen, Karlstad University, Sweden

- David Jansson, Uppsala University, Sweden: “The Other Vietnam Syndrome: Visuality, Corporeal Patriotism, and US Military Dissent and Resistance in Iraq”
- Dalia El-Shayal, Cairo University, Egypt: “The Camera as an Observer: Images and Texts as Tools of Resistance”
- Eva Zetterman, Karlstad University, Sweden: “Visual narratives: Currents and countercurrents on the urban map of Los Angeles”

C. Conservatism: An Enduring Countercurrent in American Politics? II (room 1D 340)

Chair: Alf Tomas Tønnessen, Volda University College, Norway

- Helene Megaard, University of Oslo, Norway: “Countercurrents in Mass Media: How Political Entertainer Rush Limbaugh Has Influenced American Broadcasting”
- Francis Rønnestad, University of Oslo, Norway: “The *Weekly Standard* vs. Chuck Hagel: a look at the Republican political magazine’s campaign against the appointment of Hagel as Secretary of Defense”
- Karsten Senkbeil, University of Hildesheim, Germany: “Semantics and the Crisis of Conservatism”

7:30-? Conference dinner, Kjell&Bolas/Terrassen, Mariebergsskogen

Sunday May 26

9:30-10:30 **Plenary** (FASA) (Fröding, 1B 364): Pirjo Ahokas, University of Turku, Finland:

“Challenging the Color-Blind American Dream: Transnational Adoption in Three Selected Contemporary American Novels”

10:30-11:00 Coffee

11:00-12:00 Parallel workshop/panel sessions

A. Currents and Countercurrents in Scandinavian-American Relations, IV (room 1D 327)

Chair: Dag Blanck, Uppsala University, Sweden

- Angela Falk, Uppsala University, Sweden: "Contact narratives about Swedish Pioneers and Native Americans in the Smoky Valley"
- Ida Jahr, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany/University of Oslo, Norway: "'When I think of America at night, no more sleep for me': The inter-nationalism of Sigmund Skard"

B. Southern Poetry and Politics (room 1D 328)

Chair: Jan Nordby Gretlund, University of Southern Denmark

- Jan Nordby Gretlund, University of Southern Denmark: "Still Dancing with Strom: Nikky Finney's Poetry. Poetry in Terms of Race, Family, Gender, Place, and Region"
- Hans H. Skei, University of Oslo, Norway: "Natasha Trethewey, Native Guard: Remembering and Redefining Southern History in Poetry"

C. Against the Current? Resistance and Accommodation in 20th Century Folk Music

Revivalism (room 1D 340)

Chairs: Dale Carter, Aarhus University, Denmark, and Bent Sørensen, Aalborg University, Denmark

- Bent Sørensen, Aalborg University, Denmark: "The Ballad and the Almanac Song as Protest and *Detournement*"
- Dale Carter, Aarhus University, Denmark: "This Land Is Not Your Land: Alan Lomax and the Gaelic Folk, 1949-1952"

12:00-1:00 Lunch, Transformum

1:00-2:30 Parallel workshop/panel sessions

A. Literary Interventions (room 1D 327)

Chair: Anders Olsson, Mid Sweden University, Sweden

- Jopi Nyman, University of Eastern Finland: "Reconstructing Human-Animal Relations in Jane Smiley's *Horse Heaven*: Space, Nation, Anthropocentrism"
- David Cowart, University of South Carolina, USA: "The Aim Was Song: Patchett's *Bel Canto*"
- Mariya Dogan, Ankara, Turkey: "Saul Bellow: Being an Intellectual in the United States"

B. Poetry and Politics (room 1D 328)

Chair: Anna Swärdh, Karlstad University, Sweden

- Renee Bergland, Simmons College, USA: “The Planetary Turn: Emily Dickinson as Political Theorist”
- Gül Bilge Han, Stockholm University, Sweden: “‘Poet, Be Seated at the Piano’: The Poetics of ‘Relational Place-Making’ and The Politics of Aesthetic Autonomy”
- Maria Proitsaki, University of Gothenburg/Halmstad University, Sweden: “Aesthetics versus Politics in American Poetry”

C. Rhetoric and Democratic Politics (room 1D 340)

Chair: Niels Bjerre-Poulsen, University of Southern Denmark

- Anne Mørk, University of Southern Denmark: “Rights and responsibilities in New Democrat ideology”
- Kasper Grotle Rasmussen, Aarhus University, Denmark: “Carl Kaysen: A Liberal Voice through 50 Years”
- Gilles Vandal, Université de Sherbrooke, Canada: “The repositioning of U.S. policy toward Egypt in the wake of the Arab Spring”

2:30-3:00 Coffee

3:00-4:00 **Plenary** (ASANOR) (Fröding, 1B 364): Lene M. Johannessen, University of Bergen, Norway: “Shangri-La Recall: Remembering Chávez Ravine”

4:00-4:30 Orm Øverland Prize awarded. Closing of the conference.

The conference is sponsored by Karlstad University; the Department of Language, Literature and Intercultural Studies (ISLI); the Swedish Research Council (VR); the Municipality of Karlstad; the American Embassy; and the Swedish Association for American Studies (SAAS).

