

Swedish Association for American Studies (SAAS)  
Newsletter, Spring 2020

# **STATE OF THE FIELD**

**American Studies in Sweden  
in the year 2019**

For more information about SAAS,  
please visit [www.saasinfo.se](http://www.saasinfo.se).

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## Preface to the 2020 Newsletter

This is the second newsletter issued by SAAS intended to map the outlines of the “state of the field” of North American Studies 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 was gathered in February 2020 through the help of association members, as well as by the efforts of the members of the SAAS board.

Although the survey clearly does not cover the field in its entirety, it gives a sense of the individuals that create the landscape of American Studies in Sweden. An observation is that scholars in Sweden continue to be quite active. There were at least two monographs, three edited volumes, eleven journal articles, and ten chapters in edited volumes published last year by scholars in Sweden on American Studies topics. The most noteworthy item, however, might be the conferences, workshops, and symposia organized. No less than ten such activities were arranged last year.

An event that deserves to be especially highlighted is the Graduate Student workshop that SAAS together with SINAS arranged at Stockholm University in October 2019. Seven PhD Students and four senior scholars met for two half-days to discuss the past, present, and future of American Studies in Sweden, and to workshop short dissertation drafts. The workshop was a positive experience for everyone involved, and it is our intention to continue to arrange similar activities targeted at PhD students in the future.

If you have suggestions on how to improve the survey or the newsletter, please send a note to the SAAS board through [adam.hjorthen@fu-berlin.de](mailto: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)  
Maria Holmgren Troy, Karlstad University (Secretary)  
Eva Zetterman, University of Gothenburg (Treasurer)  
Bo G. Ekelund, Stockholm University  
Jenny Bonnivier, Örebro University  
Oskar Nordell, Uppsala University  
Markus Heide, Uppsala University (Deputy Member)  
Joel Frykholm, Stockholm University (Deputy Member)

## Publications

### Monographs

Enkvist, Inger, and Vicente Ribes-Iborra, *Erövringen av Amerika: Spanien och Nya Världen 1492–1580* (Stockholm: Natur och kultur, 2019).

Fur, Gunlög, *Painting Culture, Painting Nature: Stephen Mopope, Oscar Jacobson and the Development of Indian Art in Oklahoma* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2019).

### Edited Volumes

Alvarsson, Jan-Åke, ed., *Varför reste Levi Petrus just till Chicago? Relationer mellan Sverige och USA inom ramen för pentekostalismen* (Skellefteå: Artos & Norma, 2019).

Dahlquist, Marina, and Joel Frykholm, eds., *The Institutionalization of Educational Cinema: North America and Europe in the 1910s and 1920s* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2019).

Trotta, Joe, Zlatan Filipovic and Houman Sadri, eds., *Broken Mirrors: Representations of Apocalypses and Dystopias in Popular Culture* (New York: Routledge, 2019).

### Journal Articles

Blanck, Dag and Adam Hjorthén, “Svensk-amerikanska relationer: Om förnyelsen av ett forskningsfält,” *Historisk tidskrift* vol. 139, no 1 (2019): 86–95.

Boyden, Michael, Introduction to Special Issue the New Natural History, *Early American Literature* vol. 52, no. 3 (2019): 633–641.

Boyden, Michael, “Salt and Slavery in Crevecoeur,” *Early American Literature* vol. 52, no. 3 (2019): 711–740.

Fur, Gunlög, “‘The Earrings’: Friendship Across Ethnic and Gendered Boundaries in the American West,” *Women’s History Review* vol. 28, no. 1 (2019): 23–41.

Fur, Gunlög, “Different Ways of Seeing ‘Savagery’: Two Nordic Travelers in 18<sup>th</sup> Century North America,” *History of the Human Sciences* vol. 32, no. 4 (2019): 43–62.

Hedenborg White, Manon, and Fredrik Gergorius, “The Satanic Temple: Secularist Activism and Occulture in the American Political Landscape,” *International Journal for the Study of New Religions* vol. 10, no. 1 (2019): 89–110.

Hoffman, Angela, “The Scholarly Reach of Nils Hasselmo,” *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* vol. 70, no. 2 (2019): 82–95.

Levin, Magnus, and Jenny Ström Herold, “The Obama presidency, the Macintosh keyboard and the Norway fiasco: English proper noun modifiers and their German and Swedish correspondences,” *English Language and Linguistics* vol. 23, no. 4 (2019): 827–854.

Ullén, Magnus, “Unfinished Work: Lincoln, Hawthorne, and the Situation of Literature,” *College Literature* vol. 46, no. 4 (2019): 860–887.

von Seth, Oscar, “Pojken med koskällan och Tjuren på Nybacken: En queer läsning av Vilhelm Mobergs utvandrarserie,” *Tidskrift för litteraturvetenskap* 4 (2019): 88–97.

Östlund, David, review of Jeffrey C. Stewart: *The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke* (Oxford University Press, 2018), *American Studies in Scandinavia* vol. 51, no. 1 (2019): 124–127.

### Chapters in Edited Volumes

Arping, Åsa, “‘The Miss Austen of Sweden’: Fredrika Bremer’s Transatlantic Triumph in the Age of Reprint,” in *Swedish Women’s Writing on Export: Tracing Transnational Reception in the Nineteenth Century*, ed. Yvonne Leffler, Åsa Arping, Jenny Bergenmar, Gunilla Hermansson and Birgitta Johansson Lindh (Göteborg: LIR.Skrifter, 2019)

Biltekin, Nevra, “Mellan migration och diplomati. Svenska emigrantkvinnor som kulturdiplomater i USA, 1980–1990,” in *Tillit och diplomati: En diskussionsbok om personliga relationer och diplomatiska processer, 1670–1990*, ed. Susanna Erlandsson and Siri Nauman (Uppsala: Opuscula Historica Upsaliensia, 2019).

Bonnevier, Jenny, “Making Clones, Making Mothers: Motherhood in Orphan Black,” in *Sisterhood, Science and Surveillance in Orphan Black: Critical Essays*, ed. Janet Brennan Croft and Alyson R. Buckman (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2019).

Filipovic, Zlatan, “Black and Ashamed: Deconstructing Race in Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*,” in *Shame and Modern Writing*, ed. Barry Sheils and Julie Walsh (New York: Routledge, 2019).

Filipovic, Zlatan, “A Light That Never Goes Out: Bare Life and the Possibility of Ethics in McCarthy’s *The Road*,” in *Broken Mirrors: Representations of Apocalypses and Dystopias in Popular Culture*, ed. Joe Trotta, Zlatan Filipovic and Houman Sadri (New York: Routledge, 2019).

Heide, Markus, "The Idea of the Western Hemisphere: Imperial Knowledge Production on the Americas in Travel Writing of the Early Nineteenth Century," in *Cultural Mobility and Knowledge Formation in the Americas*, ed. Volker Depkat and Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson (Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2019).

Hjorthén, Adam, "Searching for Printzhof: Touring the New Sweden Colony in 1920s Philadelphia," in *Tidens landskap: En vänbok till Anders Andrén*, ed. Cecilia Ljung et al. (Lund: Nordic Academic Press, 2019).

Troy, Maria Holmgren, "'Strange Matings' and Cultural Encounters: Octavia Butler's Fiction as 'Companion Species' to Theory," in *An Eclectic Bestiary: Encounters in a More-than-Human World*, ed. Birgit Spengler and Babette B. Tischleder (Bielefeld: Transcript Verlag, 2019)

Wallengren, Ann-Kristin, "Celebrated, Contested, Criticized: Anita Ekberg, a Swedish Sex Goddess in Hollywood," in *Nordic Film Cultures and Cinemas of Elsewhere*, ed. Anna Westerstahl Stenport and Arne Lunde (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2019).

Östlund, David, "Peaceableness as a Weapon in Wars of Swedology," in *Shaping the Ring of the Scandinavian Fellowship*, ed. Ieva Steponaviciute-Aleksiejuniene and Loreta Vaicekauskiene (Vilnius: Vilnius University Press 2019)

## **New Appointments**

Filipovic, Zlatan, Associate Professor (Docent) in English and Comparative Literature, University of Gothenburg, Dept of Languages and Literatures, August 2019.

Sae-Saue, Jayson G., Associate Professor of English, Dedman College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, the 2019/2020 Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Studies, SINAS, Uppsala University.

Östlund, David, Associate Professor, Södertörn University, Affiliated researcher, Swedish Institute for North American Studies SINAS, Uppsala.

## **Dissertation Defenses**

Perry, Elizabeth Stuart, "Child Support Law in California and Sweden: A Comparison Across Welfare State Models" (PhD diss, Department of Law, Umeå University, 2019).

Czarnezki, Jason J., "Green Public Procurement: Legal Instruments for Promoting Environmental Interests in the United States and European Union" (PhD diss., Department of Law, Uppsala University, 2019).

## Funding and Awards

Backman Rogers, Anna, monograph *Sofia Coppola: The Politics of Visual Pleasure* (Berghahn 2018), winner of Choice Outstanding Academic title for 2019.

Biltekin, Nevra, “Between Transnational Migration and Cultural Diplomacy: Gendered Practices, Imagined Homelands, and Swedish Women in the United States, 1980s–1990s,” Dagmar and Nils William Olsson The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana Visiting Scholar Award College, Rock Island, Illinois (\$2,500).

Heide, Markus, “Conference: Enlightenment, Nation Building, and American Botany,” Research Network in Literary Studies (Lilae), Uppsala University (SEK 40,000).

Heide, Markus., Workshop Race and Post-Soviet Migration to the United States, Uppsala Forum on Democracy, Peace and Justice, Uppsala University (SEK 20,000).

Heide, Markus, Matariki Network Research Funding, Research Department of English and American Studies, University Tübingen, Germany (SEK 264,000).

## Organized Conferences, Seminars, and Lectures

“Enlightenment, Nation-Building, and the Practices of Natural History: The Bartrams and Linné,” International conference, Uppsala, March 27–28, 2019. Sponsored by Research Network in Literary Studies (Lilae) and the Swedish Institute for North American Studies at Uppsala University. Organized by Markus Heide (Uppsala) and Marcel Hartwig (University of Siegen).

Annual Fulbright Lecture, with Mark Weiner, Swedish Institute for North American Studies, Uppsala University, March 28, 2019.

“Race and Post-Soviet Migration to the United States,” Workshop with Claudia Sadowski-Smith (Arizona State University), the Swedish Institute for North American Studies, Uppsala University, May 10, 2019. Organized by Markus Heide.

“Hospitality and Migration,” MA student workshop, Uppsala University, May 27, 2019. Organized by Markus Heide.

“Seminar on Hospitality in Film,” Training and Teaching Activity Erasmus+ Research Cooperation, Uppsala University, May 27–29, 2019. Project coordinator Markus Heide.

“European American Studies Network Meeting,” (ASN), Uppsala University, June 2-4, 2019. Organized by Markus Heide (president of the ASN).

“News from America,” one-day symposium on Swedish reporting on American politics with media scholars and practising journalists, Swedish Institute for North American Studies, Uppsala University, June 4, 2019. Organized by Dag Blanck. Financial support from the Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation.

“American Studies in Sweden,” PhD Student Workshop, October 4–5, 2019. Sponsored by the Swedish Association for American Studies and the Swedish Institute for North American Studies at Uppsala University. Arranged by Adam Hjorthén and Maria Holmgren Troy.

“Populism, Democracy, and the Humanities,” A national symposium at the University of Gävle, November 14-15, 2019. Project coordinator Iulian Cananau.

“Swedes in Latin America: The Experience of Bayate and Oberá,” Swedish Institute for North American Studies, Uppsala University, December 17, 2019. Workshop with Oleski Miranda Navarro, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. Organized by Dag Blanck.

## **Courses and Teaching**

### **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 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature (7,5 hp)

American Media II: Media and U.S. Presidents (7,5 hp)

### **At the Department of English, Uppsala University**

#### A-level

American 20th Century Literature (7.5 hp)

#### B-level

American Literature and Culture B (30 hp), including American Literature (7 hp)

#### MA Program in American Literature and Culture (120 hp)

Rethinking 19th Century American Literature (7.5 hp)

Inventing America: The Writings of the Colonies and Early Republic (7.5 hp)

Modernism and Modernity in America (7.5 hp)

Reading the Contemporary: Post-45 American Literature and Culture (7.5 hp)

#### PhD-level

PhD Program in English, with specialization in American Literature

### **At Other Universities in Sweden**

African American Women’s Novels, MA (7.5 hp), ISLI/English, Karlstad University.



Kultur och estetik i en global värld, MA (7.5 hp), The Faculty of Arts, University of Gothenburg.

Literature and Literary Theory, MA (7.5 hp), Department of Humanities, University of Gävle.

Literatures of Plantation America, BA (7.5 hp), Department of English, Stockholm University.

Marshall McLuhans *Understanding Media*, BA (7.5 hp), History of Ideas, Södertörn University.

Survey Course in American Literature, BA (7.5 hp), Department of Humanities, University of Gävle.

### **Thesis supervision**

Supervision of four C-level thesis and three MA thesis at History Department, Uppsala University (Dag Blanck).

Co-Supervision of one doctoral student on American studies topic, Department of Education, Uppsala University (Dag Blanck).

Supervision of two MA thesis in American literature, Department of English, Uppsala University (Markus Heide).

Supervision of C-level, T3 and T4 essays in American literature, Department of English, Uppsala University (Markus Heide).

Supervision of MA thesis on American political thought, History of Ideas, Department of Culture and Aesthetics, Stockholm University (Adam Hjorthén).

### **Presentations and Lectures**

PhD student presenters at the workshop “American Studies in Sweden” arranged by SAAS and SINAS in October 2019:

Marie Bennedahl, Linnaeus University  
Karen Ann Blom, Jönköping University  
David Bowling, Lund University  
Nuno Marques, Umeå University  
Andreas Nyström, Karlstad University  
Fredrik Svensson, Karlstad University  
Maria Trejling, Stockholm University

Senior presenters at the workshop “American Studies in Sweden”:

Blanck, Dag, “The Field of American Studies in Sweden: Past and Present.”  
Troy, Maria Holmgren Troy, “How I Became an Americanist.”

Avril, Chloé, “Med kriminalroman som mall,” Lecture at Göteborgs Stadsbibliotek, "Ett HUM om," December 9, 2019.

Biltekin, Nevra, “Immigrant Diplomacy: Swedish Women in the United States and the Making of Nonstate Cultural Diplomacy,” The Network of the History of International Relations, Stockholm University, January 29, 2020.

Blanck, Dag, “Vikings and America”, Opening Presentation, New Nordic Museum, Seattle, Washington, February 8, 2019.

Blanck, Dag, “Back and Forth in a Swedish-American Borderland: The Role of Journalists,” Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, University of Wisconsin, May 2-4, 2019.

Cananau, Iulian, “Two Fictionalizations of American Populism: Edward Bellamy’s *Looking Backward 2000–1887* and Sinclair Lewis’s *It Can’t Happen Here*,” at the symposium Populism, Democracy, and the Humanities, University of Gävle, November 15, 2019.

Heide, Markus, “Contemporary Art in the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands,” University of Tübingen, Germany, January 23, 2019.

Heide, Markus, “Border Aesthetics: Sovereignty, Surveillance, and Survival at the US-Mexico Divide,” keynote address at *The Uses of Aesthetics* conference, Karlstad University, September 12–14, 2019.

Heide, Markus, “William Bartram’s Travels: Domestic Imagination and Creole Knowledge Production,” International Conference Enlightenment, Nation Building, and the Practices of Natural History: The Bartrams and Linné, Uppsala University, March 28, 2019.

Heide, Markus, “The U.S.-Mexico Border and Populist Politics,” at the symposium Populism, Democracy, and the Humanities, University of Gävle, 15 November 2019.

Heide, Markus, “Minor Mobilities: The US-Mexico Border,” Conference Shifting Frames: Migrant Children, Politics and History, University of Potsdam, Germany, May 2-4, 2019.

Heide, Markus, “Border Aesthetics: Visibility and Invisibility at the US-Mexico Divide,” Saarland University, Germany, June 26, 2019.

Heide, Markus, “Migration and Film,” Project meeting Erasmus+ Hospitality and Film. UNED, Madrid, Spain, October 25–26, 2019.

Hjorthén, Adam, “What’s the Use of Ancestry? Mormonism, Tourism, and Genealogy in Swedish-American Relations,” Current Issues in North American Studies Lecture Series, University of Bonn, Germany, May 28, 2019.

Hjorthén, Adam, “Transatlantic Monuments: On Memories and Ethics of Settler Histories,” SAAS Plenary Lecture at *Monuments*, the biennial conference of the Nordic Association for American Studies (NAAS) in Bergen, Norway, April 25–27, 2019.

Hjorthén, Adam, “A Humanitarian Legacy? Settler Colonial History, International Relations, and the Impact of Swedish Exceptionalism in the Delaware Valley,” Visions of Humanity: Culture and International History Conference, Berlin, Germany, May 6–8, 2019.

Filipovic, Zlatan, “A Light That Never Goes Out: Bare Life and the Possibility of Ethics in McCarthy’s *The Road*,” at the biennial conference of the Nordic Association for American Studies (NAAS) in Bergen, Norway, April 25–27, 2019.

Linzie, Anna, “I can't believe we made it’: Territorial Aesthetics, Black Power Pop, and Beyoncé and Jay-Z in the Louvre,” *The Uses of Aesthetics* conference, Karlstad University, September 12–14, 2019.

Olsson, Anders, “Expansion, Movement, and Flow: Comparing Lyric Perception in the Poetry of Walt Whitman, Pablo Neruda, and Artur Lundkvist,” *The Image and the Word: Interactions between American literature, Visual Arts, and Film*, the Spanish Association for American Studies conference, Salamanca, Spain, 2019.

Svensson, Fredrik, “‘And the dreams so rich in color’: Ideology and Style in Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*,” *The Uses of Aesthetics* conference, Karlstad University, September 12–14, 2019.

Troy, Maria Holmgren, “From Sunnysdale to Engelsfors and Back Again?: ‘Translating’ *Buffy* and *My So-Called Life* across Decades, Media and National Borders,” *ETC: Exchange Transformation Communication*, the Nordic Association of English Studies conference, Aarhus, Denmark, May 8-10, 2019.

“Vem bryr sig om svensk-amerikansk historia? Om ett fälts dåtid, nutid och framtid,” roundtable discussion at Svenska historikermötet, Växjö, May 8–10, 2019. Participants: Gunlög Fur, David Östlund, Adam Hjorthén. Chair: Dag Blanck.

Wallengren, Ann-Kristin, “Anita Ekberg: A Swedish Sex Goddess' Shifting Performances in Hollywood and Italy (or How To Perform A Swedish Sex Goddess),” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Seattle, Washington, March 13–17, 2019.

Weiner, Mark, “Understanding Trumpism: American Politics and Culture in an Age of Globalization,” Annual Fulbright Lecture, Swedish Institute for North American Studies, Uppsala University, March 28, 2019.

Zetterman, Eva, “The U.S.-Mexico Border in Visual Art by Chicanas/os: Transcending National Barriers of Cultural Heritage,” Gender Studies Seminar Series, Department of Cultural Sciences, University of Gothenburg, October 13, 2019.

Östlund, David, “Alain Locke, intercultural education and ‘reciprocity’: The ideas of cultural pluralism pragmatically tested,” The Society for U.S. Intellectual History (S-USIH) annual conference, The New School, New York, November 7–10, 2019.

Östlund, David, “Skolans demokratiska uppdrag: exemplet *Intercultural Education* 1925-1958,” lecture held in several contexts on the theme of “The early movement for Intercultural Education in the U.S.” (e.g. in Botkyrka municipality, August 2019).

## **Miscellaneous**

Blanck, Dag, Swedish Institute for North American Studies has participated extensively in Swedish media as an expert on American society and politics. The database Mediarkivet records 581 media appearance (10 times per week).

Blanck, Dag, half a dozen presentations on American society and politics to different organizations and institutions throughout Sweden.