

# Propose A Thematic Stream or Seminar for the SASS 2017 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis! You Betcha!

Propose a **THEMATIC STREAM** or **SEMINAR (NEW FOR 2017!)** for SASS 2017 in Minneapolis!

DEADLINE is **July 15, 2016**.

In anticipation of the general call for papers for SASS 2017, the 107th annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, to be held in Minneapolis, MN, 11-13 May **2017**, the SASS conference program committee ([William Banks](#), [Michelle Nordtorp-Madson](#), [Jim Parente](#), [Frankie Shackelford](#), [Ben Teitelbaum](#)) are now soliciting proposals for **thematic streams and seminars**.

**What is a thematic stream?** A thematic stream is a topic or set of topics that tie together a series of panels offered sequentially within the overall conference framework. In practice, the stream acts like a conference within the conference, providing a greater degree of cohesion and potentially a greater degree of intellectual depth and rigor than might occur in an ordinary conference panel. The program committee encourages in particular stream proposals that somehow relate to the overall conference theme ("Nordic Connections: Old and New;" click [here](#)] for a statement of the conference theme). But stream proposals are also welcomed on other topics, and SASS members are encouraged to think creatively and contact the committee if they would like to test the waters on any given topic. You can find some wonderful examples of past streams by looking through the conference programs for SASS [2012](#), [2013](#), [2014](#), [2015](#), and [2016](#) Here are some examples of streams that have proved popular in the past:

- Scandinavian Crime Fiction
- Digital Humanities
- Strindberg and the Avant-Garde
- Performance Studies and Nordic Cultures
- Dimensions of Diversity in Norden
- The State of the Field
- Arctic Studies
- Found in Translation
- Nordic Guilt

## What is a seminar? [New in 2017!]

Seminars on specific topics may be proposed for the 2017 conference. Seminars provide opportunities for conference participants to work intensively together for a 90-minute period on each of the two days of the conference. Seminar participants may complete a paper before the conference that is shared with the other seminar members and discussed by the group; or seminar participants may prepare a series of readings in advance of the conference, write preliminary responses to the readings and/or take turns leading the seminar discussion of the texts during the meetings. Seminars should be led by two SASS members, who will be responsible for evaluating the participants' applications to the seminar and structuring the seminar's format. Seminars are closed discussions without an audience. Each seminar will not have more than 10 participants, and every effort will be made to involve scholars at different professional stages from senior scholars to early-career researchers and graduate students.

Seminar topics may be similar to the list of thematic streams above or on an entirely new topic in Nordic studies. Seminars that involve both North American and other international scholars are especially welcome.

## What is the difference between a seminar and a thematic stream?

Thematic streams aim to organize a series of sessions at the conference on a particular topic; there are generally three or more sessions devoted to each theme, and the thematic streams are open to all registrants for the conference.

Seminars are closed sessions on a specific topic. Seminar participants will be required to prepare a paper or a series of readings in advance of the meeting, and share written papers or comments on the readings with the other participants approximately 4-6 weeks before the conference. Seminars are devoted to an intensive discussion of the pre-circulated materials. Seminar participants will meet for 90 minutes on each day of the conference. Participation in a seminar is considered the equivalent of presenting a paper, and seminar participants may not present a second paper at another conference session. Seminar participants, however, may participate in a roundtable discussion, or serve as a commentator or chair in another session.

### **Why propose a thematic stream or seminar?**

A thematic stream or seminar:

- Enriches the academic depth and significance of the conference experience;
- Can act as an aggregator for finding colleagues interested in the same topic(s) as you;
- Can serve as the basis for a future journal special issue or edited volume;
- Can let you recruit colleagues to SASS that have not previously attended and ensure that they have a good intellectual experience;
- Can count as a useful CV item, demonstrating your active contribution to the field of Scandinavian Studies.

### **What are my responsibilities as the proposer of a thematic stream?**

If you propose a thematic stream, and your proposal is accepted, you will be encouraged to recruit scholars to submit papers that relate to your theme once the general call for papers opens on **September 1, 2016**. You will also be tasked with the work of reading paper proposals that come to the program committee and that have asked to be considered for your stream. This work will take place after the call for paper closes on **November 1, 2016**. You will need to sort and arrange accepted papers into a workable and stimulating series of panels. This work must be completed by **December 15, 2016** so that presenters can plan to attend the conference and possibly apply for travel money. Finally, you will need to attend the conference yourself and help ensure that the stream unfolds as you hoped in **May of 2017**.

### **What are my responsibilities as the proposer of a seminar?**

SASS members interested in proposing a seminar should identify a partner with whom s/he can lead the seminar. Seminar leaders will evaluate applications from potential members to the seminar and chose up to 10 applicants for the seminar. Seminars must have a minimum of 8 applicants in addition to the leaders to take place. Seminar leaders will decide whether to ask participants to submit papers, or to prepare texts and/or visual materials for discussion in the seminar. Seminar leaders may decide on the format of the seminar. For example, participants may be asked to serve as respondents to one of the papers; discussion leaders for a set of readings; or prepare short reaction papers to the readings/visual materials that are shared in advance.

### **What are the deadlines for seminars?**

The list of approved seminar topics will be advertised on **August 1, 2016**. Applications for the seminars should be sent to the Program Committee by **October 1, 2016**. The Program Committee will send the seminar applications to the seminar leaders; if there are only a few applications for a seminar, the seminar

may be cancelled. Seminar applicants will be informed of the status of their application no later than **October 15, 2016**. If the seminar is cancelled, seminar applicants may still send a proposal for a paper to the Program Committee by the conference deadline of **November 1, 2016**.

**So how do I propose a stream or seminar?** Send a one-paragraph statement of your proposed stream or seminar (in the body of an email message or as an attachment) to the conference email address [sass2017conference@scandinavianstudy.org](mailto:sass2017conference@scandinavianstudy.org), with the topic line “stream/seminar proposal.” Send it from the email address through which you would like us to correspond with you. **Proposals for streams by multiple SASS members** (i.e., joint proposals) are welcome; copy all joint proposers in your email. **Proposals for seminars must be made by the two seminar leaders.** Please include a one-paragraph statement regarding your research interests and qualifications, or those of each of the proposed stream curators or seminar leaders. Send your proposal by **July 15, 2016**. The program committee will be in touch soon after to let you know if your proposal has been accepted. The list of approved streams and seminars will then be published on **August 1, 2016**.

If you have any questions about these guidelines or about a stream that you’d like to explore, please contact the program committee at our program email address [sass2017conference@scandinavianstudy.org](mailto:sass2017conference@scandinavianstudy.org). We will be checking email frequently and will give you feedback on any ideas you are considering for a stream or seminar.

## HANDY LIST OF DEADLINES

- **July 15, 2016:** Proposals for thematic streams and seminars are due.
- **August 1, 2016: Announcement of approved streams and seminars.**
- **September 1, 2016:** Call for individual papers, stream papers and seminar applications.
- **October 1, 2016:** Deadline for seminar applications.
- **October 15, 2016:** Notification of successful seminar applications.
- **November 1, 2016:** Deadline for proposals for individual papers, sessions, roundtables.
- **November 15, 2016:** Thematic stream sessions finalized.
- **December 15, 2016:** Notification of successful paper proposals, sessions and roundtables.
- **February 1, 2017:** Registration deadline for all presenters.

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[\[WB2\]](#) Clydette: add hyperlink to 2016 streams.

[\[WB3\]](#) Clydette: insert new SASS2017 email address

[\[WB4\]](#) Clydette- insert new SASS2017 email address