The official news bulletin of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study

# News&Nates VOLUME 43 · MAY 2020

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SASS Updates
Member Updates
SASS 2021 & 2022
Awards & Prizes
Scandinavian Studies





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#### VOLUME 43 | MAY 2020

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### A Message from the President

Julie K. Allen | president@scandinavianstudy.org

s we endure the current stressful historical moment, it gives me some comfort to be reminded that SASS, in its 110 years, has been through a lot of tumultuous times—natural disasters, global and local financial crises, political and social upheaval, and, yes, pandemics, to name just a few. We don't have a record of how SASS dealt with the 1918 flu pandemic, but we do have the chance right now to reflect on and record how we are dealing with COVID-19 and the ways it has upended our teaching, research, networking, and private lives. The wellbeing of SASS and its members have been on my mind pretty constantly throughout the past few months, so I want to express my appreciation for the patience and support many of you have expressed as we've struggled to figure out how to handle our upcoming conference in the most responsible way.

Although we were not able to meet as a Society in Puerto Rico this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I'm delighted that the seasonally-appropriate resurrection of News & Notes in a virtual format will give us a renewed chance to maintain contact with each other. News and Notes is designed to be a quick and easy way for SASS and its members to let each other know about job postings, conferences, publications, awards, courses, and anything else that affects our scholarly community. Much of this information is also available on the Society's website, but I have heard from many SASS members who miss having that kind of information collated and delivered, so we are planning to send out a digital issue of News & Notes on a regular basis from now on. Please send any relevant announcements or questions that you'd like to have included or addressed in an upcoming issue to SASS's executive director, Kimberly La Palm.

Sincerely,

Julie K. Allen

Julie K. Allen | SASS President



## A Message from the Executive Director

Kimberly J. La Palm | exec-director@scandinavianstudy.org

t has been an exciting year for SASS! As you may have noticed, we have made some big changes in the past year and there are more changes on the horizon. We are excited to revive News and Notes in this digital format and hope that it will keep all of us connected as we move forward.

From a business perspective, 2019 was quite successful for SASS. Following the fraud in 2018, the leadership dedicated a great deal of time and effort to reorganizing the everyday operations of the society to ensure that we are protected from future threats to our financial well-being as well as to ensure that we are making the most of our position as an academic organization and as a non-profit institution. A detailed report of our 2019 finances was audited by the executive council and presented at the online business meeting on May 1. You will find a summary report of our finances for 2019 in an upcoming issue of Scandinavian Studies and, rest assured, despite the economic upheavals of the first months of 2020, we are still in a strong financial position.

As you may have noticed, we were able to hire a graphic designer to update our look - including creating a new logo, new website, new society seal, and now, an updated layout for the long-anticipated relaunch of News and Notes thanks to the generosity of the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation. The SASS leadership is thrilled with our new, professional branding and we are excited to share it with you. As you flip through this issue, take a moment to appreciate the details of our new look. You can find the print logo on the left-hand side of the Table of Contents page, the News and Notes logo on the cover, the SASS icon (reserved primarily for digital platforms) on WHAT page, and the new society seal on pages ??? along with the official announcements of the winners of this year's awards and prizes.

Throughout this issue, you will find announcements and updates about recent developments, upcoming initiatives, and exciting updates on our long-standing projects. Keep an eye on your email inbox every month for new issues of News and Notes featuring updates, announcements and communication from all of us at the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study.

Sincerely,

Kimberly H a Palm

Kimberly J. La Palm | SASS Executive Director

## Updates from the Council

newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org

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SASS would like to thank the Lund Trust, a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, for their generous donation of £5,000. The Rausing and Baldwin families are longtime patrons of SASS and

we are grateful for the support they have shown us. Their gift will be used to bring members of the Virgin Islands Study Collective (VISCO) to our upcoming meetings in Seattle and Puerto Rico.

### **Puerto Rico Refunds and Donations**

We have submitted a request with the University of Illinois press to issue refunds for fees paid to attend the postponed 2020 conference. You should have already received this refund or should be receiving this refund in the next few weeks. Please keep an eye on the card or bank account that you used when you made the purchase to verify that your refund has been received. For those of you who opted to donate to SASS or to an accredited Puerto Rican charity, we are happy to report that SASS has received \$2,205.00 which will go towards supporting graduate student attendance at future annual meetings. An additional \$1,705.00 has been donated on behalf of the SASS membership to Direct Relief to help provide disaster response aid to Puerto Rico. You can find more information about the work being done by Direct Relief in Puerto Rico on their website: https://www.directrelief.org/place/puerto-rico

### Is there anything you would like to share with the SASS membership?

Please send announcements and suggestions to newsandnotes@ scandinavianstudy.org. If approved before the last day of the month, announcements will appear in the next month's issue. Please indicate if you would also like your announcement to appear on scandinavianstudy.org

lews&N@te

## In the Next Issue

Meet the Executive Council! The June issue of News and Notes will feature bios, photos, and updates from members of the SASS Executive Council.



### Puerto Rico: now SASS 2022

sass2020@scandinavianstudy.org

Report by organizing committee member Lill-Ann Körber, Aarhus University, currently based in San Juan, Puerto Rico

The organizing committee of this year's Annual Meeting is deeply disappointed that we have not been able to see each other in Puerto Rico last week! But the good news for us, for our local partners, as well as for those who had registered and looked forward to the conference, is that it has not been cancelled, but postponed until April 2022.

Puerto Rico took very early and very strict measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and seems to be faring comparatively well thanks to these preventive efforts. After hurricane Maria in 2017 and the earthquakes off the south coast during the first months of 2020, this is the third disaster striking the island within the course of a few years. Being here during the crisis and curfew, I have the impression of a place shaped by this vulnerability, but also by instructive experience and resilience in the face of such situations. One of the conference's keynote speakers, St. Croix-based visual artist La Vaughn Belle, confirmed in our recent conversations that the same is true for the neighboring Virgin Islands: she noted a swift switch into crisis mode, or "hurricane mode," that has contributed to keeping contagion on the islands to an extremely low level.

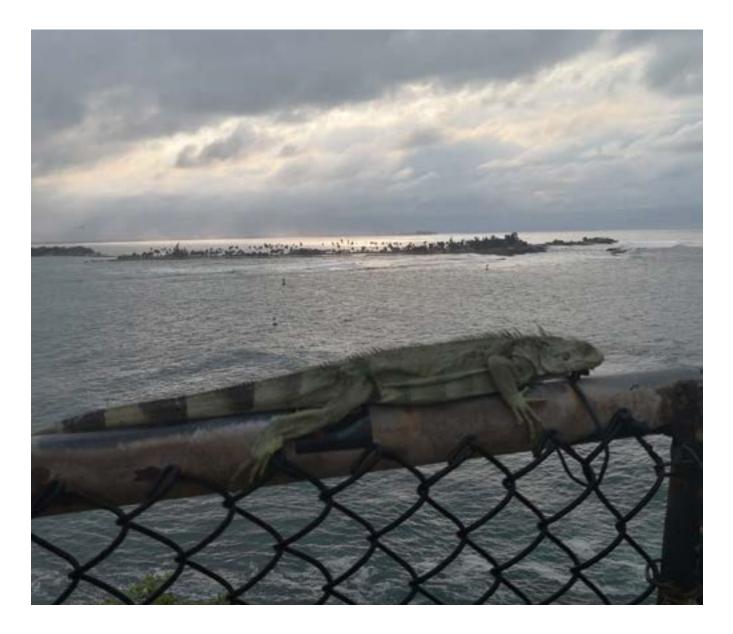
Yet, as elsewhere, people are suffering, not only due to the health hazards, but also socially, economically, and spiritually. The impact of holding the SASS conference in Puerto Rico, including the cultural enrichment program and subsequent excursions to the former Scandinavian territories in the Caribbean, could be seen in this light: not only will participants contribute to the local economy, but perhaps more importantly, they will contribute by learning about, acknowledging, and supporting the work of our colleagues teaching Medieval Scandinavian Studies at the University of Puerto Rico under the given circumstances, and of local community builders, writers, artists, and filmmakers committed to researching and educating about the colonial past and present of the Antilles that shape even the current situation.

Despite the limited mobility and physical contact of these weeks and months, despite closed borders, breaches within societies and existential inequality, I see this crisis as a unique opportunity to consider how we are all connected and share a similar set of experiences in the face of this invisible yet very concrete threat and its consequences. This awareness of intercontinental connectedness, past and present, for better and for worse, is what we all along have wanted the SASS meeting in Puerto Rico to highlight.

To help freelancing cultural producers during this difficult time, SASS and the Danish Arts Foundation

have chosen to support the exhibition of La Vaughn Belle (USVI) and Jeannette Ehlers (DK) "Every Monument is a Citizen" at the non-profit gallery Pública in San Juan independently of the conference. Belle and Ehlers received attention globally in 2018 when they inaugurated their public statue "I Am Queen Mary" in Copenhagen, honoring resistance against colonial rule in the Danish West Indies. The exhibition opening had originally been intended as a key event of the conference's cultural enrichment program. When I met those involved in the show at the gallery immediately before the lockdown, everybody agreed that it would be uplifting as well as an economic relief to realize the exhibit as soon as the safety of artists, technicians, and visitors can again be ensured, and travel restrictions are lifted. Sadly, this will not happen before I leave, but it is a reassuring thought that a small part of SASS 2020 and its spirit will be present in San Juan in the not too far future.

The organizing committee will use the time until the 2022 conference to consolidate and expand the collaborations, of which we will keep you updated. Not least, we hope to organize a few panels at the 2021 meeting in Seattle as a preview for Puerto Rico. We hope you'll keep looking forward to an exciting and unique scholarly and cultural program.





Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to Seattle May 6 - May 8, 2021 for the annual conference of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies! The conference will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in the city's downtown.

The theme of the 2021 conference is Ecologies and Economies. The interdependence of our natural and human systems deeply affect what we study and teach. Interdependencies also impact how we live, work, and move -- now more evidently than ever. We need to understand our interdependencies deeply and broadly. The conference invites presentation of research that contributes to understanding ecologies and economies, broadly conceived – ecological relationships, textual systems, archives, institutions, networks, and many other interdependencies. We hope the meeting might help us see overlooked features of our past but also to reimagine ecologies and economies for post-pandemic times. Streams and pre-constituted sessions that contribute to the conference theme will be especially welcome.

The host of the 2021 annual conference is the University of Washington's Department of Scandinavian Studies in the UW's College of Arts and Sciences. The department offers courses in the languages and cultures of all the Nordic and Baltics countries, which we define as the "Nordic 8." Papers, sessions, and streams reflecting this broad definition of the region are warmly encouraged. We are also excited to collaborate with the National Nordic Museum, a frequent partner of the department. The museum will feature special programming on Thursday for SASS members and host the conference's opening event, Thursday evening.

We are proud to announce that the conference will be paying "Real Rent Duwamish." Seattle is an anglicization of the name of the Dx<sup>w</sup>dəw?abš (Duwamish) Chief Si'ahl (1780-1866).

SASS 2021 wishes to stand in solidarity with the Duwamish people and recognize the continued benefits that Seattle enjoys as a result of first people's "presence and stewardship of this land." All funds go directly to Duwamish Tribal Services to support the revival of Duwamish culture and the vitality of the Duwamish Tribe.

Seattle is many cities in one. It is the home of first peoples, a world-class metropolis, and it lies in an incredible natural setting. Visitors and residents enjoy Seattle's outdoors, but also its lively downtown, wonderful restaurants, espresso on every corner, and a thriving cultural community full of theatre, music and museums. The conference hotel is steps from it all, be it Pike Place Market, the clubs where grunge was born.

Join us for SASS 2021 in Seattle! Welcome!

Sincerely,

Andrew Nestingen Professor and Department Chair

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## Awards & Prizes

### 2019 Aurora Borealis Awards



#### Arts and Literature ROBYN BARROW University of Pennsylvania "Consider the Walrus:

"Consider the Walrus: Gunhild's Cross and the Nordic Trade Sphere"



#### Social Science

**CLAIRE ANDERSON** University of Washington

"The Swedish Wild West's American Frontier: Nostalgia and Imagery in the Swedish Country Music Scene"

ach year the Society honors graduate student contributions to our conference by awarding two student presenters the Aurora Borealis Prize for the best oral paper presentations, one in the category of History and Social Science, and one in Arts and Humanities. Typically only those who attend the delivery of a paper are eligible to nominate individuals for this prize, criteria we are not able to uphold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which compelled the Society to cancel its 2020 annual meeting. Happily, the Aurora Borealis Prize Committee is still planning to award a 2020 prize and consequently, is adjusting the nomination process to accommodate the situation.

We invite faculty and instructors working with graduate students who have written worthy papers to nominate individuals for the 2020 prize. Self-nominated papers will be accepted on rare occasions at the discretion of the President of SASS.

The Aurora Borealis Prize Committee operates a paperless submission process. Nominating SASS members may submit their nominations online at https://form.jotform.com/201204750062137. Nominees may then submit their papers as originally delivered, without revisions, along with any accompanying audio-visual or handout materials, to auroraborealis@scandinavianstudy.org. Please put "Aurora Borealis 2020" in the subject line. Papers must adhere to professional citation standards and include a bibliography.

Nominations and submissions will be accepted until December 1, 2020.

Thank you and we look forward to reading your work!

Sincerely,

(Anna Rue

Anna Rue | 2020 Aurora Borealis Awards Committee Chair

## Awards & Prizes

### 2020 Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Memorial Scholarship



**TROY WELLINGTON SMITH** University of California, Berkeley "Kierkegaard and the History of the Book and Reading"

ach year the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study awards the Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Memorial Scholarship to support graduate student research in the field and each year we are excited to see the amazing dissertations that graduate students are completing. This year was no different as we received outstanding applications across the board. The awards committee was especially impressed by the breadth of topics, the depth of research, and the commitment to engaging with pressing societal issues through the study of the Scandinavian region from all of the applicants.

We are pleased to announce that Troy Wellington Smith has received the Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Memorial Scholarship to conduct research in Denmark. While we were unable to meet in Puerto Rico to learn more about Troy's work, we're excited to be able to support his research and look forward to learning more about his findings at the SASS conference in the future.

As always, we encourage Ph.D. candidates who are conducting research and fieldwork about Nordic or Nordic-American topics in the social sciences and history (broadly defined) to apply, especially applicants that demonstrate a need to travel to the Nordic region or areas in North America far from their home institutions to conduct research in archives, libraries, and museums or to pursue fieldwork or excavations. For more information, please check out the website https://scandinavianstudy.org/awards-fellowships/haugen-scholarship.

Sincerely,

### Marcus Cederström

Marcus Cederström | 2020 Haugen Memorial Scholarship Committee Chair

## Awards & Prizes

### 2020 Birgit Baldwin Fellowship Award



**TIFFANY WHITE** University of California, Berkeley "The Demonization of the Natural World: An Ecotheologial Exploration of Medieval Icelandic Literature"

s chair of the Birgit Baldwin Fellowship Award committee, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Tiffany Nichole White on her receipt of the SASS Birgit Baldwin fellowship. Tiffany will spend the fellowship year (2020-1) working in Iceland on her Ph.D. dissertation "The Demonization of the Natural World: An Ecotheological Exploration of Medieval Icelandic Literature." The committee made up of members of the SASS Advisory Council including Gantt Gurley, Ursula Lindqvist, Susan Brantly, and Andrew Nestingen. We were highly impressed with Tiffany's ambitious proposal. The dissertation aims to trace a lineage of notions of the human dominion over the natural world across Christian sources in medieval Iceland. In so doing, the dissertation promises to contribute to Old Icelandic studies, medieval studies as well as for the environmental humanities more broadly. Tiffany brings multilingual expertise and extensive archival experience to her research. She will be working at the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies in Reykjavík.

The Birgit Baldwin Fellowship in Scandinavian Studies was established in 2004 by Professors John W. Baldwin and Jenny Jochens in memory of their daughter Birgit Baldwin, who was nearing completion of her PhD in Comparative Literature at Yale when she was fatally injured by a drunk driver in June 1988. Birgit shared her mother's scholarly interest in Scandinavian literature and was a member of SASS from 1980-1988. The Baldwin fellowship provides a grant of \$28,000, paid to support research and living expenses in a Nordic country for one academic year.

Congratulations Tiffany on being the SASS Birgit Baldwin Fellow for 2020-21!

Sincerely,

Andrew Nestingen | 2020 Birgit Baldwin Fellowship Award Committee Chair

## New Hires



**BENJAMIN MIER-CRUZ** 

Assistant Professor University of Wisconsin - Madison

Madison, Wisconsin



#### LIINA-LY ROOS Assistant Professor University of Wisconsin - Madison

Madison, Wisconsin



**TIMOTHY R. TANGERLINI** Professor University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, California

## Promotions & Tenure



#### CHAD-ERIC BERGMAN

Executive Director Center for Scandinavian Studies, North Park University

Chicago, Illinois



#### DEAN KROUK

Associate Professor University of Wisconsin - Madison

. . . . . . . . . . . . .

Madison, Wisconsin



#### CHRISTOPHER OSCARSON

Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education Brigham Young University

Provo, Utah



#### MARK SAFSTROM

Associate Professor Augustana College

Rock Island, Illinois

## Retirements

Submit retiring member details to newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org

### Charles Peterson | Center for Scandinavian Studies at North Park



n April 30, Professor Charles Peterson retired from his twenty-seven-year tenure as Executive Director of the Center for Scandinavian Studies at North Park University in Chicago. Theatre Professor, Chad-Eric Bergman, will succeed him as director. In 1993 after a significant chapter living in Drammen, Norway, the opportunity to lead the Center enticed Charley and his young family to return home to Chicago. Since that time, the Center brought together many of Charley's musical and academic interests under one roof in Caroline Hall on North Park's campus, which welcomed countless visiting scholars, dignitaries, and artists.

Academic partnerships with schools in Scandinavia were at the heart of the work of the Center, including that of North Park's first and longest-running academic exchange with Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola (SVF) in Jönköping, Sweden. Over the years, well over a thousand Swedish and American students have studied together by spending half the year at SVF and the other half of the year in Chicago. Other highlights in the partnerships with Scandinavian institutions included hosting Terje Rød-Larsen, whose work led to the Oslo Accords.

Community partnerships have been particularly meaningful to Charley. On three occasions, the Center hosted a group of professional gymnasts from Denmark who performed to large crowds of North Parkers and community members, including a student group from Hibbard Elementary School. Charley and the Center for Scandinavian Studies were honored in 2015 by the Swedish American Museum in Chicago for promoting interest in the Nordic region and for preparing students for bilingual careers in fields such as education and business. While serving as President of the Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce, Charley enjoyed the distinct privilege of hosting the King of Norway at an event at the Drake Hotel.

In true fashion, Charley (often accompanied by his wife Sharon, a professional pianist) produced a variety of musical events including concerts featuring North Park chamber musicians and Scandinavian artists, a Jenny Lind reenactment concert, and the annual Sankta Lucia Pageant in Anderson Chapel. Charley and Sharon's hospitality is legendary, whether at a festive meal at the Drake or a glass of aquavit in their North Park home. Over the years, Charley's signature humor and commitment to academic excellence invited countless North Park students, junior colleagues, friends and family members to appreciate not only where they had come from, but where they could go. In semi-retirement Charley looks forward to continuing to teach communication arts courses at North Park, developing his publishing company, Nordic Studies Press, and spending more time with his family. Skål, Charley!

## **Open Positions**

### Professor of Modern Scandinavian Literatures University of Greifswald

The Department of Finnish and Scandinavian Studies at the University of Greifswald's Faculty of Arts and Humanities is seeking to fill the position of Professor (W3) of Modern Scandinavian Literatures as soon as possible. Deadline for application is 31 May 2020.

https://www.uni-greifswald.de/en/university/information/jobs/job/n/w3-professur-fuer-neuere-skandina-vische-literaturen-institut-fuer-fennistik-und-skandinavistik-6302/

### Learn More

Open positions will be included in News and Notes at the request of the hiring organization. For an ongoing list of active and past searches, visit our website at

https://scandinavianstudy.org/news-notes/job-postings

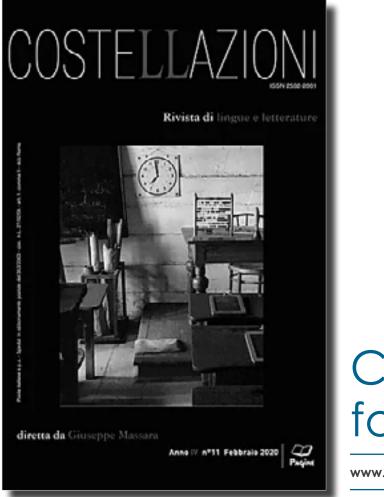
### Courses

## North Dakota norsk online

Online semester-based or enroll any time courses in first and second-year Norwegian available for college credit.



Learn more at UND.edu/norwegian



### Call for Papers

www.rivistacostellazioni.org

### Call for Papers for the special issue in «Costellazioni. Rivista di Lingue e Letterature»

Spatiality as Interpretative Approach to Contemporary Scandinavian Culture and Literature

Edited by: Anna Maria Segala, Fondazione Roma Sapienza; Camilla Storskog, University of Milan; Anna Wegener, Danish Academy in Rome

Colleagues are invited to submit an abstract (max 450 words, excluding references) for a thematic issue of the international journal «Costellazioni» (https://www.rivistacostellazioni.org/), to be published in spring 2022.

The study of spatial form in literature, initially launched by Joseph Frank around the middle of the last century and further developed by Gaston Bachelard and Gérard Genette, was granted more methodological and conceptual complexity by Frederik Jameson's and Edward W. Soya's studies in the Nineties. In recent years, the interconnectedness of scientific descriptions of geographical space and literary writing, inevitably determined by and rooted in a specific environment, has opened up new horizons for researchers working at the intersection of space epistemology, geographic description, and the poetics of space (Bertrand Westphal). Also in the Scandinavian area, the representation of space has been extended to include forms of social and cultural diversity, thereby contributing to a reassessment of literary history: rather than tracing it as a linear evolution in time, scholars come to view such history as a dynamic, intimate relationship between given places and the literature they inspire.

In its complexity, therefore, the sense of space offers a valid interpretative lens for studying contemporary Scandinavian culture and literature. The arena of architecture and urban studies likewise hosts an ongoing debate in Nordic countries over how to forge a new balance between the construction of "exemplary" and monumental buildings and surrounding urban dwellings, and the various functions (and feelings) tied to these neighborhoods.

The aim of this thematic issue is to explore the interconnectedness of spatial and temporal relationships in the perception and narration of the Nordic world from multiple points of view.

#### TOPICS

Topics for contributions could include (but are not limited to) the following:

- The discontinuity between urban and domestic space and how it is reflected in representations of society;
- Sites and places as recurring narrative tropes in contemporary Scandinavian literature and/ or in the production of individual writers: urban areas and the periphery, suburbs and rural

areas, autobiographical and private spaces, and workplaces;

- Material and/or immaterial spaces connected to memory, identity, affection, or trauma; the symbolism of space;
- Space as a sense of belonging for some and of rejection and marginalization for others;
- Eco-critical connotations in encounters and clashes between man and nature, natural landscapes and technology;
- Architecture as an art capable of shaping reality, creating living patterns and making a mark on the material world.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

- Essays must not exceed 40,000 characters (including spaces) and will be subjected to double peer reviewing. Languages accepted: Italian and English. Style sheet available at https://www.rivistacostellazioni.org/normeredazionali
- Please send your proposal (in English or Italian) to: annamaria.segala@uniroma1.it, camilla. storskog@unimi.it, and wegener@acdan.it
- Deadlines: Abstracts must be submitted by 15 July 2020. Notifications will be sent by 31 July 2020. Essays are to be submitted by 11 November 2021.



## **New Publications**

orvik Press are pleased to announce three new translations: a duo of Nordic modernist classics, Crisis (Kris) by Karin Boye and Chitambo by Hagar Olsson; and Jan Kjærstad's contemporary crime novel, Berge.

Crisis Kein her

#### CRISIS | KARIN BOYE

Boye's Crisis, first published in Swedish in 1934 and now available in English translation by Amanda Doxtater, incorporates stylistic and literary experimentation in its meditation on queer desire and the protagonist's crisis of faith.



#### CHITAMBO | HAGER OLSSON

Olsson's Chitambo, translated by Sarah Death, is a vibrant evocation of early-twentieth-century Finland with an unforgettable heroine whose ironic humour pointedly challenges societal expectations of women's role at that time.



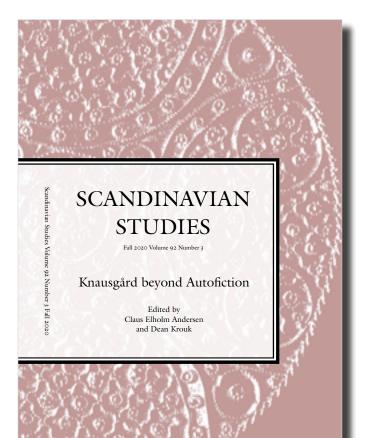
#### BERGE | JAN KJÆRSTAD

Kjærstad's Berge, translated by Janet Garton and published in the wake of Norway's 22/7 attacks, presents three compelling perspectives on a terrorist act and its aftermath to provoke enduring questions of ethics and nationhood.

### **Consider Adding These Titles to Your Reading List**

If you wish to consider adding any of these translations to a reading list, please let us know and we will send you a complimentary copy for consideration.

Extracts of titles can be perused at our blog: https://norvikpress.wordpress.com/extracts and copies of the complete books are available to purchase from our distributors (currently still operating during COVID-19): https://www.bookdepository.com/publishers/Norvik-Press



### Scandinavian Studies

Dean Krouk, Reviews Editor | krouk@wisc.edu

The Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study has been publishing an academic journal since 1911. Originally conceived as a report of work presented at the annual meeting, the publication quickly became one of the foremost peer-reviewed journals in the field and has remained a top-rated journal internationally for several decades. A copy of the journal, in print or digital format is included in your membership to the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study.

SASS would like to thank Susan Brantly and Tom DuBois for their work as the most recent editors of Scandinavian Studies. Dr. DuBois's term as co-editor will be expiring this year and Dr. Brantly's term will be expiring in 2022. Anyone interested in contributing to the growth of the field by stepping into the editor role should contact SASS Vice-President Andy Nestingen at akn@uw.edu for more information.

Anyone interested contributing book reviews to Scandinavian Studies should contact Dean Krouk, Reviews Editor at krouk@wisc.edu to express their interest in this opportunity.

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