

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

News & Notes

VOLUME 51 • JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2021



Society for the
Advancement of
Scandinavian Study

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VOLUME 51 | JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

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A Message from the Executive Director

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

My apologies for the lack of newsletter in January! It was a busy month and time just got away from me but that means we have lots of updates this month.

Planning for the virtual conference is coming along nicely. We are excited about the opportunities this new platform presents and we are looking forward to seeing everyone (if only virtually). For those of you interested in attending but not presenting, you can register for the full conference here: <https://cvent.me/BNVGmD>

If you would still like to present but fear that you have missed the deadline, you're in luck! Doing this virtually gives us more flexibility with scheduling so that we can still accept submissions until the schedule is finalized,. Follow this link to submit and register in one step: <https://cvent.me/BNVGmD>

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce all of you to our new conference intern, Mia Filardi. Mia is an undergraduate at the University of Washington, majoring in Finnish and International Studies. Mia spent a year studying abroad in Finland and, like a true Finn, is currently organizing a women's hockey team at UW. Mia will be helping SASS with set-up of the virtual event space and will be providing technical support during the event. We are all looking forward to Mia joining our team!

Sincerely,

Kimberly J La Palm

Kimberly J. La Palm | SASS Executive Director



News

newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org

SASS LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

SASS is grateful to those dedicated members who have committed to a life membership in the Society. In the past, life members enjoyed a print-only subscription to the journal, but we are delighted to announce that life members will now have unlimited online access to current and past issues of the journal as well. Thanks for your support and loyalty!



Thank You

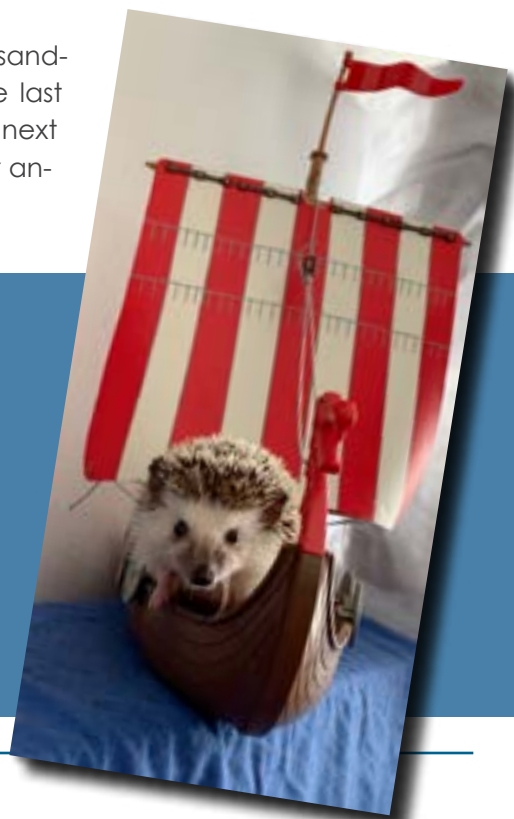


Is there anything you would like to share with the SASS membership?

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

In the Next Issue

I don't know yet, but here's a picture of Pip the Hedgehog sailing in a Viking ship.



Executive Council Election Results

I am pleased to announce that the SASS elections were among the smoothest and safest in the history of our organization, though we didn't quite achieve record voter turnout. The results are now in (see below), so I want to thank all of the SASS members who were willing to stand for election and congratulate those who have now been entrusted with the responsibility of guiding the Society over the next few years. As a volunteer organization, SASS relies on the membership's willingness to help carry the shared burden of putting on an annual conference, putting out the journal, administering various grant programs, and engaging in the scholarly community in myriad ways. For me, it has been a privilege and an honor to have the chance to give a little bit back to the Society that has played such a central role in my professional development and brought me together with so many amazing people that I now call my friends.

Sincerely,

Julie K. Allen

SASS President

EXECUTIVE OFFICER



SCOTT MELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Vice-President 2021-2023, President 2023-2025, Financial Officer 2025-2027

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Scott is distinguished faculty associate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he has worked in this capacity for over twenty years. He is the current president of the Association of Swedish Teachers and Researchers in America and is co-editor of a volume on Finland-Swedish culture for *Journal of Finnish Studies*.

Since the field has an increased number of academic staff, and since there can be a gap in funding for academic staff regarding research funds including funds to attend conferences like the one for the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies, Scott would like to spend his presidency looking at opportunities for the society to help fund academic staff as well as focus on other issues that academic staff face.

AREA STUDIES REPRESENTATIVE



TIM FRANDY, WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

2021-2025

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Bures! Frandy is an Assistant Professor of Folklore Studies at Western Kentucky University, where his research involves Nordic and Nordic American folklore (mostly Sámi and Finnish), Indigenous peoples, and public humanities. As a member of the executive council he plans to advocate for two issues that are dear to him. The first involves elevating diversity in our field: in our membership, the Nordic communities

we work with, and the kinds of scholarship we do. The second concerns supporting graduate students and younger scholars facing historic economic challenges. The future of our field depends on our investment in these two issues.



LANG. AND LITERATURE REPRESENTATIVE

ROSEMARY ERICKSON JOHNSEN, GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

2021-2025

Rosemary Erickson Johnsen, Ph.D. is Associate Provost and Associate VP of Academic Affairs at Governors State University. She publishes in the areas of crime fiction and public humanities, including *Contemporary Feminist Historical Crime Fiction* (Palgrave Macmillan). She is co-editor of a forthcoming essay collection on Public Scholarship in Literary Studies (Amherst College Press, 2021), and a recent recipient of 2 NEH grants. A regular presenter at SASS conferences and book reviewer for *Scandinavian Studies*, she has published essays on Swedish crime fiction in the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and other public-facing outlets. She is also on the editorial board of the *Journal of Popular Culture*. Her vision for service to SASS includes promoting public humanities engagement among individual members and for SASS as a whole. External collaborations and relationships will enhance the reach and stability of SASS.



GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

MAXINE SAVAGE, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

2021-2025

Maxine Savage is a doctoral student in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington. As the first graduate student member of SASS's executive council, their focus will be on recruiting and supporting a diverse graduate student presence in the field. Maxine's research explores national identity, queer history, racialized affect, and materiality in contemporary Icelandic literature and cinema. Their scholarship has appeared or is forthcoming in *lambda nordica*, *PARSE journal*, *Ós*, *seedings* and elsewhere. Supported by the Fulbright Commission and the American-Scandinavian Foundation, Maxine's work has included collaborations with the Northwest Film Forum, *Taste of Iceland*, and *The Poetry Brothel* Reykjavík.



INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR/INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE

SALLY YERKOVICH, AMERICAN SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION

2021-2025

Yerkovich is Director of Educational Exchange and Special Projects at The American-Scandinavian Foundation and Adjunct Professor of Museum Anthropology at Columbia University. A cultural anthropologist with more than thirty years of leadership experience in museums and cultural institutions in New York and Washington, DC, she now serves as the Chair of the Ethics Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). She is the author of *A Practical Guide to Museum Ethics* as well as numerous articles on ethical issues. Yerkovich brings to the SASS Executive Council the perspective of an independent scholar working in the non-profit sector.

Scandinavian Studies Editorship Search

Search Committee:

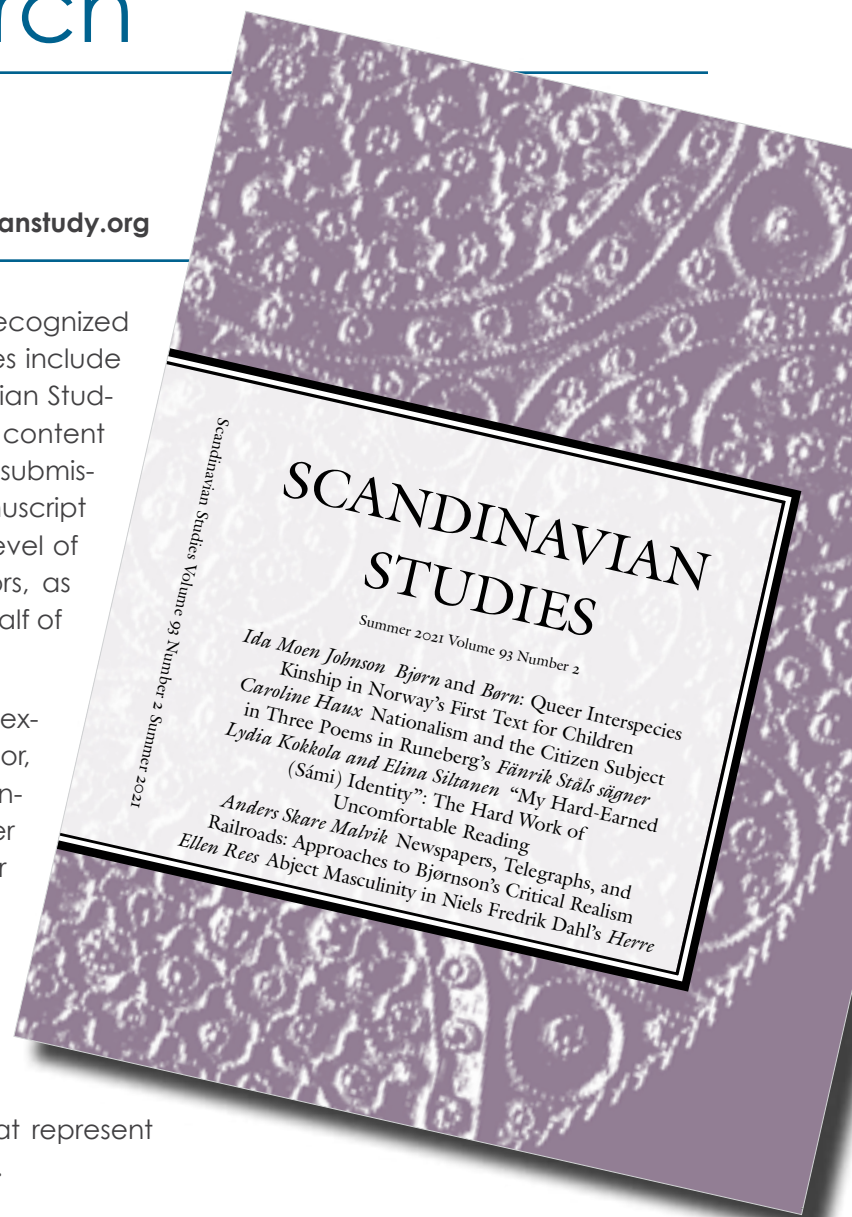
Professor Verena Hoefig | verena@illinois.edu
Professor Andrew Nestingen | akn@uw.edu
Dr. Kimberly La Palm | exec-director@scandinavianstudy.org

SASS is seeking a new editor of its globally recognized journal, *Scandinavian Studies*. Responsibilities include publishing four issues annually of *Scandinavian Studies* in coordination with the publisher, selecting content for issues, commissioning special issues, reviewing submissions, managing peer review, and managing manuscript preparation. SASS is prepared to negotiate the level of support from the society with prospective editors, as well as providing resources for networking on behalf of the journal.

The ideal candidate is a member of SASS with experience with *Scandinavian Studies* (as an author, a reviewer, and/or a member of the advisory council) or substantial editorial experience with another peer-reviewed scholarly journal. The new editor should also be conversant with developments in the field of Scandinavian Studies in its entirety (the study of the languages, cultures, or societies of the Nordic region, past or present). *Scandinavian Studies* is a membership journal striving to reflect the diversity of our members and their work through the publication of articles that represent the field in North America, Europe, and the world.

The publication of *Scandinavian Studies* is a fundamental part of fulfilling our mission to support and advance the field of Scandinavian studies. As editor, you would help to shape the future of the field as well as the future of the Humanities.

Please contact Professor Verena Hoefig (verena@illinois.edu), Professor Andrew Nestingen (akn@uw.edu) or Dr. Kimberly La Palm with questions regarding this position, its responsibilities, and the support SASS can offer to its editors.



Become a Member or Renew <https://order.press.uillinois.edu/ss/order.html>

Scandinavian Program Highlight



Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic+ COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

As at most universities across the globe, the past year brought about unprecedented changes for the Nordic program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As COVID-19 spread throughout our community in early March, staff and faculty quickly transitioned courses, events, and departmental activities online. While it has been challenging, our department members and students made the best of the situation and, as the pandemic carries on, continue to learn new lessons each day. While current events have certainly upended our expectations for the 2020–2021 academic year, we are happy to announce several exciting developments.

The Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Arts in the Upper Midwest team received a new three-year, \$1.5 million dollar grant supporting folk art and culture. Since 2017, Marcus Cederström, Nathan Gibson, and Anna Rue have worked with artists, musicians, scholars, and community members to host public events, teach field schools and classes on Scandinavian American folklore and culture, as well as deliver a variety of public productions, including online and traveling exhibitions, CDs, books, and short films. This grant builds on the events and connections the team has forged, but with several new concepts, including an artist and musician-in-residence program and a post-doctoral fellowship program. The fellowships will employ two post-doctoral public folklorists for two-year programs to teach public folklore courses and work with Nordic American artists and musicians in the region. The residency programs are investments in master artists who will be invited to Madison to work with campus

collections, community members and organizations, scholars, and students to inspire and inform their art and their education. Both programs will begin in 2021.

We are also happy to announce two wonderful additions to our department. This past fall



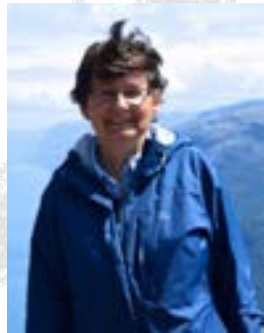
semester we welcomed assistant professors Liina-Ly Roos and Benjamin Mier-Cruz to our ranks. Liina-Ly received her Ph.D. from the University of Washington. She specializes in twentieth to twenty-first century Nordic and Baltic culture with a specific focus on post-WWII and contemporary film, TV, and literature. Benjamin received a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. His research examines modern Scandinavian literature and film with a focus on writers and filmmakers of color and intersectional representations of gender, sexuality, and race. Both Liina-Ly and Benjamin have developed and started teaching new courses over the past semester, making clear their dedication to advancing our interdisciplinary program. We look forward to their continued teaching and research contributions as well as their positive presence in the department.

Scandinavian Program Highlight

On a bittersweet note we announce the retirement of two long-time faculty members, Peggy Hager and Nete Schmidt.

Peggy has been with the department for over two decades as a Norwegian language teacher. She served as a vital link between our department and the Norwegian-American community of Wisconsin and helped facilitate and optimize our university's Norwegian study abroad options.

Peggy prioritized integrating new technologies into language teaching in a student-focused way, and was a pioneer of intensive summer online Norwegian in recent years. Upon her retirement the department received an outpouring of gratitude from former students with many of them mentioning her personable and engaging manner alongside her high expectations for their language learning. Nete has also been with our department for more



than two decades. She has served as an instructor of Danish at all levels and has offered multiple courses in English, including our phenomenally popular course on H.C. Andersen as well as courses on topics such as Scandinavian women authors, crime fiction, and Nordic noir. She re-



ceived the UW's Chancellor's Hilldale Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2011. In addition, Nete served as our undergraduate advisor for most of

her twenty+ years at Madison. She plans to retire at the end of the spring semester 2021. While both Peggy and Nete will be missed, we are hiring new Norwegian and Danish faculty associates and look forward to working with our new coworkers in the fall of 2021.

Moving forward our department hopes the new year will bring about positive changes including an end to the pandemic and the resumption of in-person classes. In addition to finding some renewed normalcy we look forward to introducing our new artist-in-residence program, presenting the brand new Traveling Traditions: Nordic Folk Arts in the Upper Midwest exhibition, and welcoming new coworkers, graduate students, and undergraduate students. In the meantime, we will continue building upon our pandemic era experiences and work at improving virtual learning for all University students. Hopefully through these troubling times we can all grow stronger, more compassionate, and unified for the days to come.



INFO

Find More Info at
<https://gns.wisc.edu/>

SASS 2021

Exhibitor Opportunities

For more information, contact Kimberly La Palm at exec-director@scandinavianstudy.org

In addition to offering increased opportunities for attendance and participation, our virtual platform also provides additional exhibitor space. Virtual exhibitor space includes a dedicated webpage within the conference platform where exhibitors can upload files and images, add links to their home page or online store, or provide a link to an independent conference room where booth staff can meet with attendees or present their own materials. Exhibitor registration includes full conference registration for one staff member with additional staff member registrations available for a discounted rate.

EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION FEES

PRESSES: \$150

(INCLUDES ONE FULL-ACCESS REGISTRATION)

INSTITUTIONS AND

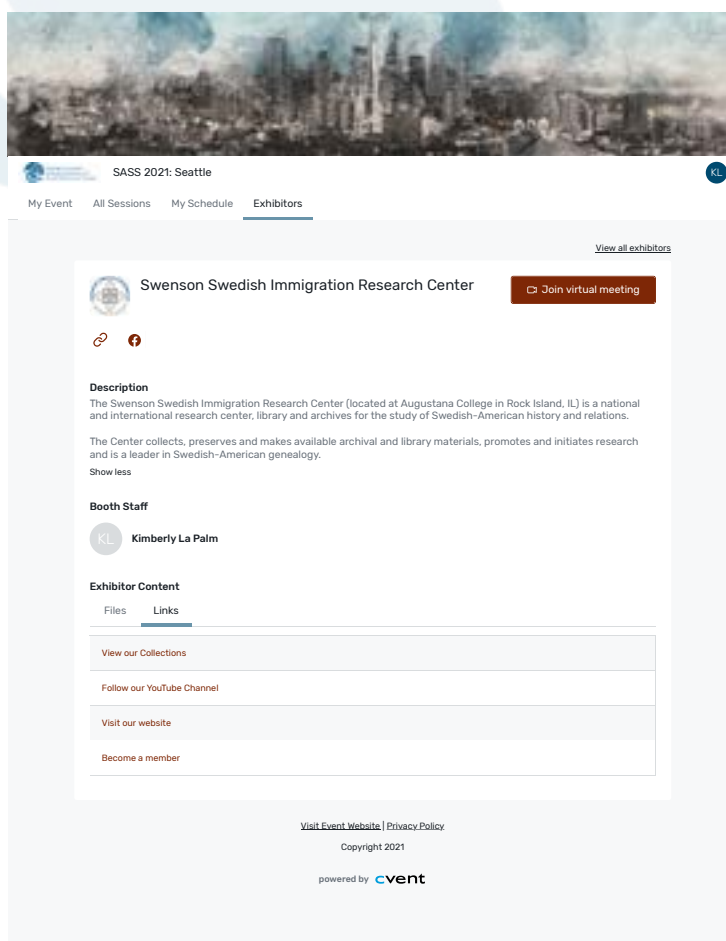
ORGANIZATIONS: \$100

(INCLUDES ONE FULL-ACCESS REGISTRATION)

ADDITIONAL STAFF

REGISTRATIONS: \$25

Right: Sample Exhibitor



****Exhibitor Registrations Are Non-Refundable****

REGISTER

<https://cvent.me/BNVGmD>



Future Conferences

Direct all SASS 2021 conference questions to sass2021@scandinavianstudy.org

Mark your calendars for the next four year's worth of SASS conferences! With the change in plans for 2020 and 2021, we have been able to plan out dates all the way out to 2024!

SASS 2021: Virtual Meeting

May 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 2021

Website coming in April!

SASS 2022: Rio Mar, Puerto Rico

April 27-30, 2022

Wyndham Grand Rio Mar

SASS 2023: Austin, Texas

Exact dates TBA

University of Texas at Austin

SASS 2024: Seattle, Washington

May 9-11, 2024

Renaissance Seattle Hotel

Hosted by the University of Washington

INFO

Interested in hosting SASS in your area?
Contact Julie at julie_allen@byu.edu

Upcoming Events

Questions? Email kimberlylapalm@augustana.edu



The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center is excited to announce our new **Lunchtime Lecture Series!** These bi-weekly lectures will be held via Zoom over the lunch hour (12-1pm Central) and will feature a short lecture followed by Q&A with the speaker. This spring we will feature scholars who have been the recipients of our Visiting Scholar Award or our Faculty Research Stipend.

More information on research funding awarded by the Swenson Center can be found here: www.augustana.edu/swenson/academic

Tuesday, February 16

Dr. Erika Jackson, Colorado Mesa University, "Swedes, Nordic Whiteness, and Race Privilege in Chicago at the Turn of the Twentieth Century" (will be available to view at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSb6XwUlobf2bErYS8wF15Q> on February 23)

Tuesday, March 2

Dr. Nevra Biltekin, Stockholm University, "Immigrant Diplomacy: The Swedish Women's Educational Association (SWEA) and Swedish-American Relations"

Tuesday, March 16

Dr. Ulf Zander, Lund University, "Allan Kastrup and the Swedish-American Connection"

Tuesday, March 30

Dr. Chris Strunk, Augustana College, "Mapping Swedish Migration in the Quad Cities: Teaching Cultural Geography with the Swenson Immigration Research Center"

Tuesday, April 13

Dr. Brian Leech, Augustana College, "Animals/Vegetables/Minerals: Understanding the Environmental History of Swedish America through Veterinary Scrapbooks, Farm Advertisements, and Mining Diaries"

Friday, April 30

Dr. Anders Bo Rasmussen, University of Southern Denmark, "An End to All Questions": Scandinavian Immigrants, Abolition, and the Impeachment of President Johnson"

REGISTER

www.augustana.edu/about-us/news/lunchtime-lecture-series