

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

# News & Notes

VOLUME 66 • MAY 2024



Happy Summer!



newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org  
scandinavianstudy.org



**VOLUME 66 | MARCH 2024**

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**W** UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

Thank You!

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Andrew K. Nestingen | [akn@uw.edu](mailto:akn@uw.edu)

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As chair of the organizing department for SASS 2024, let me say for myself and my department colleagues, thank you to everyone who made the trip to Seattle to participate in this year's conference. You made the event a success.

The theme was movement. The conference itself moved: it was initially intended to be held in spring 2021 but had to be moved, for obvious reasons. I am grateful we were now able to gather in discussion and exchange in Seattle. I also hope the presentations and discussions dislodged some assumptions and set some new questions moving through your mind.

It was a privilege to have Professor Ethelene Whitmire deliver the conference's keynote address on the topic of Nordic Utopia as well as to hold the opening event at the National Nordic Museum. I hope conference participants enjoyed the chance to visit the museum and see the exhibit Nordic Utopia: African Americans in the Twentieth Century. Many thanks to Professor Whitmire and to National Nordic Museum CEO Eric Nelson, Director of Collections Leslie Anderson, and Assistant Programs Director Gillian Cobb, who made this part of the conference possible.

Let me also say a final thanks to the colleagues in the Scandinavian Studies Department at the University of Washington, the members of the SASS Executive Council, and the Executive Director Dr. Kimberly La Palm for their work to make this year's conference a success. Thank you!

I look forward to seeing everyone next spring in Minneapolis for another exciting SASS conference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Nestingen". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Andrew Nestingen

# Announcements

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

### AURORA BOREALIS PRIZE

Nominations for the Aurora Borealis Prizes in Area Studies and Social Sciences, Arts and humanities, and History are now being accepted. Papers presented by graduate students at SASS 2024: Seattle are eligible for the 2025 prizes in Social Science and Area Studies, Arts and Humanities, and History.

Nominations for the Aurora Borealis Undergraduate prize are accepted on a rolling basis. Undergraduate papers (10-15 pages) submitted in the 2024 calendar year are eligible for the 2025 Undergraduate Prize,

Graduate Student Nomination Form: <https://form.jotform.com/201204750062137>

Undergraduate Nomination Form: <https://form.jotform.com/201204750062137>

More information: <https://scandinavianstudy.org/awards-fellowships/aurora-borealis-prizes/>



## THANK YOU LUND TRUST

A CHARITABLE FUND OF LISBET RAUSING & PETER BALDWIN

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 was used to support graduate student participation at SASS 2024: Seattle



### Is there anything you would like to share?

Please send announcements and suggestions to [newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org](mailto:newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org). If approved before the last day of the month, announce-

ments will appear in the next month's issue. Please indicate if you would also like your announcement to appear on [scandinavianstudy.org](https://scandinavianstudy.org)

## In the Next Issue

Welcome back!

- Looking ahead to Minneapolis
- Call for Papers



# Call for Nominations

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NAHA  
NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

## ODD S. LOVOLL AWARD

The Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA) is excited to announce that applications are open for its Odd S. Lovoll Award, which recognizes originality, excellence, and creativity in undergraduate research and writing on any aspect of Norwegian-American studies.

The winner of the award will receive a cash prize of \$500 and a one-year student membership in NAHA. Interested applicants should submit an interpretive essay based on original research of between 2,000 and 10,000 words in length, which conforms to Chicago style (using endnotes). Essays must be written as an undergraduate and submitted within one year of graduation from an undergraduate institution. Preference will be given to essays that explore previously neglected topics or new approaches to previously treated topics.

The award-winning essay will be considered for publication in NAHA's academic journal, Norwegian-American Studies. The deadline for student submissions for the award is June 1 of each year. The NAHA publications committee, in consultation with the editor of Norwegian-American Studies, will select the winner. Award-winning essays will be announced September 1.

For full details, please visit <https://naha.stolaf.edu/publications/>

# Open Positions

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## DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE STORICHE GEOGRAFICHE E DELL'ANTICHITA' – DISSGGA

### Postdoctoral Fellowship

This postdoctoral fellowship is part of the ERC Consolidator Grant 'A Disarmed Continent? Gun Culture, Gun Control and the Making of Western Europe (c. 1870-1970)'. The project is a comparative study integrating legal, cultural, social and practical analyses of the lawful use and possession of small firearms. Within the general framework of the project, the postdoctoral researcher will study the case of Sweden between c. 1870 and 1945.

Over the course of a century (c. 1870-1970), Europe experienced a silent revolution that led to the implementation of gun control measures and the depoliticisation and cultural deglamourisation of guns. This transition has become one of the foundations of public order, social peace and the smooth functioning of political systems. The overall aim of the project is to explore the causes and historical processes that have led to this change and its implications for European history.

In the light of the existing literature and within the chronological framework of this fellowship (1870-1945), the postdoctoral researcher will select case studies on which to focus the research, identifying the most appropriate sources and methodologies. The postdoctoral researcher will carry out a research project based on an integrated approach to the legal, cultural, social and practical aspects of the lawful use and possession of small firearms by law-abiding civilians. The methodologies envisaged by the project, which the postdoctoral fellow will be invited to select and implement, include: a) security studies; b) entangled legal history; c) guns as material objects; d) advertising; e) gender studies.

Principal Investigator: Prof. Matteo Millan, [matteo.millan@unipd.it](mailto:matteo.millan@unipd.it)

Read more about the project [ERC-CoG EU-GUNS](#)

Find out how to apply and other useful information [HERE](#)

# Open Positions

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## UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN CULTURAL STUDIES

The Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion at the University of Bergen invites applications for a permanent position as Associate Professor in Cultural Studies. The starting date for the position is the 1st of November 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Bergen version of Cultural Studies focuses on everyday culture in past and present. The discipline is embedded in the academic traditions of Ethnology and Folkloristics, which have a particular focus on Nordic cultures. Research is carried out in combination with teaching on bachelor, master and PhD-level. Currently there are 6 permanent positions in Cultural Studies.

#### **Work tasks:**

The position has research, supervision, teaching, outreach and administrative components. The successful applicant must be able to teach and supervise students at all levels within cultural studies.

The successful applicant will have the right and the duty to conduct research within their specialty and will be assigned some academic administrative work. It is expected that the successful candidate will participate in the continued development of the research environment, and assume an active role in project development, attraction of external funding and dissemination.

Norwegian will normally be the language of administration and teaching. The successful applicant will be required to teach in Norwegian or another Scandinavian language within three years of being appointed. The university provides suitable courses for learning Norwegian.

The successful candidate will be expected to relocate to Bergen, to work and participate in the day-to-day operations of the department and to conform to the regulations that apply to the position.

More information can be found [HERE](#).

# Publications

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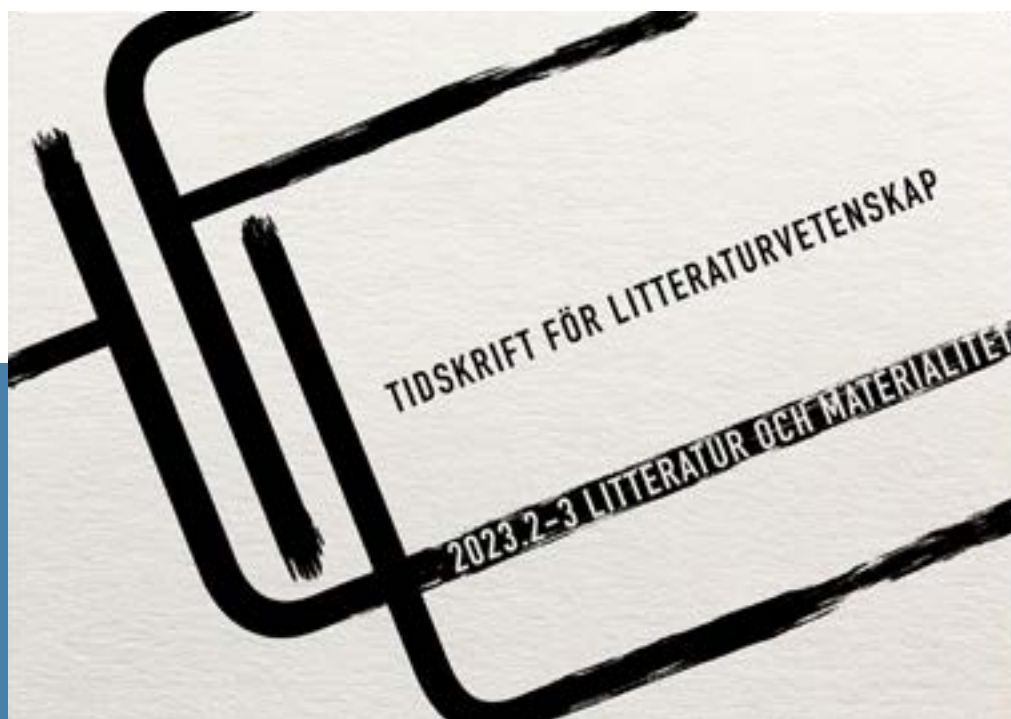
## TIDSKRIFT FÖR LITTERATURVETENSKAP

***Ett myller av materialiteter och en ny look. Nya numret av Tfl är här!***

Litteratur och materialitet är temat för vårens dubbelnummer av Tfl (vol 53, nr 2-3), i regi av Ellen Frödin och Sara Pärsson. Bland svampar, facklor och manuskript söker numrets nio artikelförfattare svar på frågan om litteraturens relation till det materiella. Artiklarna föregås av två essäer om nymaterialistisk litteraturläsning respektive boksamlande och efterföljs av ett nytt bidrag under vinjetten "Ämnet för vårt ämne", där Thomas Götselius reflekterar kring litteraturen i ljuset av dess möjliga slut. Som om inte det var nog innehåller numret inte mindre än nio bokrecensioner. Hur det står till med litteraturens slut kan vi låta vara osagt, men litteraturforskningen fortlever alltjämt!

Passande nog har Tfl i samband med detta materialitetstemanummer fått en uppdaterad fysisk gestalt tack vare Richard Lindmark. Tanken är att texten ska vara lika smidig att läsa på skärm som på papper. Därför finner du nu två olika pdf:er på numret, en för skärmläsning och en för utskrift. Den som läser på skärm kan dessutom njuta av ytterligare en nyhet, nämligen klickbara fotnoter.

Hela numret hittar du [här](#).





# In Memoriam

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## PER THOMAS ANDERSEN

Per Thomas Andersen, professor of Scandinavian literature at the University of Oslo, passed away on 13 December 2023 after a long battle with cancer. He was 69 years old. He completed his doctoral dissertation, "Dekadanse i norsk litteratur 1880–1900," at the University of Tromsø in 1990 and taught there from 1988 until he was hired at the University of Oslo in 1993. He remained in this position, which included significant university service and a truly impressive amount of advising at the masters and doctoral level, until it was necessary for him to retire early because of his illness.

Per Thomas was a profoundly respected figure within the field of Norwegian literature, primarily because of his impressive scholarly productivity and enormous generosity in mentoring colleagues and advisees. Generations of students have been influenced by his *Norsk litteraturhistorie* (2001, second edition 2012), which has long since become the essential work on Norwegian literary history.

His areas of interest were wide-ranging and included lyrical poetry, as demonstrated by his first book, *Stein Mehren – en logos dikter* from 1982, his book on the poetry of Øyvind Rimbereid, *Rimbereids lyrikk: Hendelser og poetiske øyeblikk* (2018), and his introduction to the study of poetry, *Lese lyrikk* (2022). The importance of place was also a recurring preoccupation for Per Thomas, leading to the publication of the books *Identitetens geografi: Steder i litteratur fra Hamsun til Naipaul* (2006) and *Til stede: Essay* (2013). Regardless of whatever topic captured his imagination throughout his long career, Per Thomas went all in, and was meticulous, thorough, and driven to communicate clearly and concisely in writing.

Per Thomas had longstanding collaboration with universities across Europe and in the US, especially at the University of California-Berkeley. For his untiring efforts in researching and promoting Norwegian literature, he was awarded the King's Medal of Honor in September 2023. He was also a long-standing member of the Norwegian Academy of

Science and Letters and had been awarded significant grants from the Research Council of Norway.

As a talented pianist, painter, and novelist in his own right, Per Thomas had a deep appreciation for multiple forms of artistic expression. He was also guided by a strong sense of fairness and solidarity, something that led him to volunteer for Amnesty International for many years. He always had a pithy comment in the face of the absurdities and



hypocrisies of academic life. Per Thomas was a complex, intellectually stimulating, generous, and unwaveringly supportive colleague. His voice and insights within the field of Norwegian literary studies will be deeply missed.

--- submitted by Ellen Rees

# In Memoriam

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## KIM G. NILSSON

Kim G. Nilsson, born in Finland on February 2, 1939, passed away peacefully at UW-Hospital in Madison on May 9, 2024, after a long battle with metastatic prostate cancer.

Kim came to the US in 1958 after having experienced a difficult childhood. At a very young age, both he and his mother contracted tuberculosis and were sent to a sanatorium, where they had no contact. Kim's mother died at the sanatorium, and when he recovered, he was sent to Skåne in Sweden as a so-called war-child to live with a family. He was returned to Finland about a year later. Kim's father soon remarried a woman, who owned an antiquarian bookstore. A professor of history from Indiana University frequented the bookstore and befriended Kim's family. As a return favor, the professor arranged for Kim to study photography at Indiana University. Realizing that he didn't have the artist's eye for photography, Kim eventually chose Russian as his major. In his senior year at Indiana University, Kim served as an interpreter of Finnish for the State Department and traveled throughout the country with Finnish dignitaries visiting the US. Kim received his BA in 1962.

While at Indiana University, Kim met an Indian young woman, Usha Saxena, whom he married. Usha accepted a professorship at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Kim tagged along, changed his field of study to linguistics, and did most of his graduate work at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. After completing his dissertation on the subcategorization of Swedish verbs, Kim was hired as a tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of Scandinavian Studies, where he taught Finnish and Scandinavian linguistics. Kim moved through the ranks from assistant to associate to full professor. During his time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he chaired several faculty committees, and on two occasions he served as chair of the Department. In terms of research, Kim's main focus was on Swedish syntax, though he also wrote articles on literature. The article Kim was most proud of was "Semantic Devices in Gunnar

Björling's Poetry," which was published in Michigan Germanic Studies.

Kim always split his time between the US and Finland. When in Finland during the summer, he got into his boat – a sloop – and sailed in the Baltic, where he would stay on board for two or three weeks. When on land, he spent time on an island owned by his family. On two occasions, Kim spent a full year in Finland. One was on a Fulbright. The



other was to teach at the University of Helsinki. Kim took early retirement to care for his lady friend, Inge Britt, in Helsinki, who had been diagnosed with a rare neurological illness, and to pursue his passion of sailing, fishing, and skiing. Kim was also a classical music lover and an avid reader until near-blindness set in when he was in his early 80s.

Kim leaves behind his older sister Jill Aschan and a younger half-brother Jesper; two nieces, Johanna and Lena; a nephew Jons; and his ex-wife Usha. Kim's ashes were sent to Finland, where he has been laid to rest.

----- submitted by Kirsten Wolf

# In Memoriam

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akn@uw.edu

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## RICHARD “DICK” RINGLER

Richard Newman “Dick” Ringler was born January 21, 1934 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and died peacefully at his home in Madison, Wisconsin, on Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, at the age of 90.

In 1961, Dick Ringler began his tenure-track appointment in the English Department at the University of Wisconsin. His expertise in things Old Norse/Icelandic eventually resulted in a split appointment between English and Scandinavian Studies and he retired as professor emeritus in 2002. In 2004 he was awarded the Order of the Falcon by the President of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson for his service to Icelandic culture. Dick was himself a talented poet and his translation of Jónas Hallgrímsson’s poetry in *Bard of Iceland* is a stunning artistic feat. He was a beloved teacher and colleague, whose work has left a lasting impact on the University of Wisconsin.

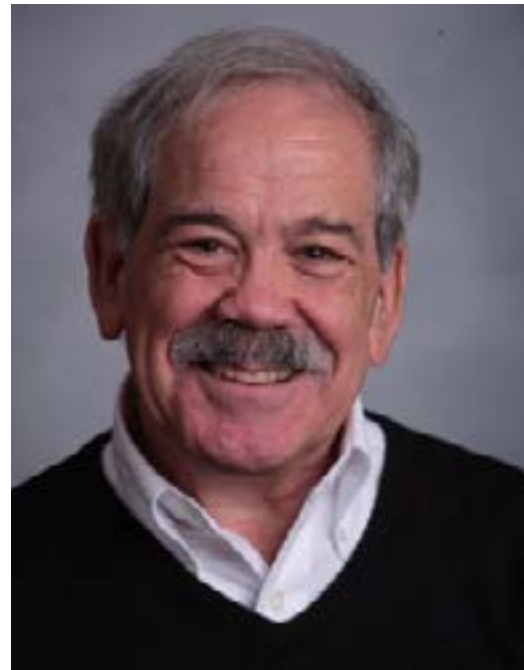
--Submitted by Susan Brantly



## LOUIS JANUS

Louis Janus died on April 15, 2024 at his home in Richfield, Minnesota after a long illness. He had an M.A. in Scandinavian Linguistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Ph.D. in Germanic Philology from the University of Minnesota. During college, Louis developed a lifelong interest in Scandinavia with a special focus on its languages. As a gifted teacher, he taught courses at St. Olaf College, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Oslo in Norway. Louis also served as Project Director of the Less Commonly Taught Languages Project at the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition at the University of Minnesota. Throughout his career, Louis dedicated himself to developing course materials and teaching methods to assist other instructors. Louis was a past-president of NORTANA and edited *SASS News & Notes* for many years.

--Submitted by Susan Brantly



# Executive Council

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info@scandinavianstudy.org

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## Incoming Executive Council Members

TERM BEGINNING MAY 2024

*Join us in welcoming the incoming members of the Executive Council!*



**Natalie Van Deusen** | Language and Literature



**Carrie Danielsen** | History and Social Science



**Rachel Bott** | Graduate Student Representative

# Executive Council

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info@scandinavianstudy.org

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## Outgoing Executive Council Members

TERM ENDING MAY 2024

*Join us in thanking the outgoing members of the Executive Council!*



**Liina-Ly Roos** | Language and Literature



**Verena Höfig** | History and Social Science



**David M. Smith** | Graduate Student Representative

# Meet the Executive Council

info@scandinavianstudy.org

## David M. Smith (he/him/his)

**GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (2023-24)**

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**

N&N: What brought you to the field of Scandinavian Studies?

DS: I lived for several years in Bergen, Norway, falling in love with the language and literature of Norway. Back in the US I graduated with an MFA in Literary Translation from the University of Iowa. I decided to continue my academic engagement in the field by entering the PhD program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

N&N: In which Nordic languages are you proficient?

DS: My main focus is on Norwegian, and while I can write in both Bokmål and Nynorsk, I consider myself primarily a user of Nynorsk and a proponent for its wider use and acceptance in Norwegian society.

N&N: What is your primary area of research? Secondary?

DS: I focus on translation and questions of reception in literature. My paper for the 2023 SASS conference in Austin, for instance, was about reception problems around Mattis Tust, the famous protagonist of Tarjei Vesaas's classic novel *The Birds*. While existing translations have contributed to a widespread but erroneous reading of Mattis, I attempted to point the way for translation to serve as a corrective, to guide the reception toward the author's stated intentions for his character.

N&N: What are you working on right now?

DS: My current project is a translation of *The Calf*, a 2019 novel by Leif Høggaug. *The Calf* is a surrealist novel about a mechanical barn gnome (fjøsnisse) who is employed at an underground, Kafkaesque office landscape to perform an array of meaningless tasks. Unusually, it is written in the author's native dialect of hadelandsk, spoken in the Hadeland district of Norway, instead of standard Bokmål or Nynorsk. In order to replicate the dialectal aspect of the novel, I've chosen to translate it into a playful Southern US English, a dialect I know well growing up as I did in the US state of Georgia.

N&N: Do you have any recent publications or works?

DS: My translation of Johan Harstad's *The Red Handler*, a Monty-Pythonesque send-up of Nordic crime fiction, was published by Open Letter Books in March.

N&N: How did you get involved with SASS?

DS: I first got involved as an independent researcher at

the LA conference 2018. Jay Lutz was kind enough to include me as a participant on African diasporas in the Nordic countries, where I presented some research on unpublished manuscripts by the late African-American activist and expatriate to Sweden, Sherman Adams.

N&N: How did you find yourself on the Executive Council?

DS: Scott Mellor asked me to stand for election, and I did!

N&N: What are your goals as a council member?

DS: I'm here to serve as a conduit for concerns affecting the graduate student community at SASS.

N&N: What has been the greatest benefit you've gotten from your affiliation with SASS?

DS: I get to be a part of a vibrant community of scholars and benefit from the exchange of ideas and research in my chosen field. I have always felt very welcome at SASS, even at that first conference I attended in 2018 where I hardly knew anyone! For new members, I can say that membership in SASS is one of the best resources you can have, so don't hesitate to strike up a conversation at the coming conference in Seattle. I look forward to meeting you!



# 2023 Award Winners

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## The Birgit Baldwin Fellowship

Rachel Bott

(University of Wisconsin)

*Survey of Monsters and Monstrosity in the Scandinavian Medieval Ballads*



## Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Scholarship

Samantha Brown

(University of Oregon)

*Fermenting Foods, Fresh Perspectives: Inuit Food Sovereignty in the Context of European Fine Dining*



# 2024 Award Winners

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The Baldwin Language Fellowship

Maxine Savage

(University of Washington)

*Kalaallisut*



The Baldwin Language Fellowship

Alicia Zellmer

(University of Central Florida)

*Danish*





# 2024 Award Winners

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The Aurora Borealis Prize  
*Language and Literature*

David M. Smith  
(University of Wisconsin)

*Why are things the way they are? On the Tendency to Read Vespaas's Mattis as Disabled*



The Aurora Borealis Prize  
*Area Studies*

Natalya Nielsen  
(University of California, Berkeley)

*Fredrik Backman Was Here: US Imaginations of Everyday Swedish Racial Solidarity in Backman's "Beartown"*



# 2024 Award Winners

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The Aurora Borealis Prize  
*History*

Love Carlshamre  
(University of California, Berkeley)

*Literary Gimmicks: A Reading of Lars Gustafsson's Texas Novel "Tennisspelarna" (1977)*



The Aurora Borealis Prize  
*Undergraduate*

Annika Andersson  
(University of British Columbia)

*Rejecting an Imagined Past: Contemporary Sámi Art as Colonial Resistance*

