

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

News & Notes

VOLUME 68 • NOVEMBER/DECEMBER





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scandinavianstudy.org



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Happy Holidays from SASS!

As 2024 comes to a close, we want to take a moment to reflect on everything that we have done this year and the exciting projects that lie ahead of us in 2025.

SASS 2024: Seattle was a success! Thanks to fruitful collaborations with the National Nordic Museum, the Swedish Club of Seattle, the Swedish American Historical Society, the American Scandinavian Foundation, the Lund Trust, and the Scan Design Foundation, we were able to welcome over 250 participants to our meeting to share our work and engage in inspiring conversation. Thank you again to our special guest speakers Drs. Jennifer Attebery and Amanda Doxtater and of course our keynote speaker, Dr. Ethelene Whitmire, for sharing their work.

Moving our journal to the University of Wisconsin Press is now complete. We appreciate your patience with any hiccups we may have seen along the way, but we are thrilled with this new collaboration -- and with the new cover art! We are still working on the membership management system - GlueUp is working for now, but those of you who follow Kimberly's occasional email snarkiness know that she's not thrilled with it so of course that means she is on the search for a better option or ways to make GlueUp work better for us. More to come on that front in the next issue of News & Notes!

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to see everyone in Minneapolis! Planning is ramping up and we are hoping that those of you who were unable to meet the December 1 abstract deadline will be able to submit in time for our new (and final) January 7 deadline. This year's theme of "Location" has brought in some fantastic proposals already and the physical location of the event - downtown Minneapolis - promises countless opportunities to explore and experience Scandinavian-American history and culture.

Finally, the newly formed SASS Strategic Planning Committee and the Fundraising Committees will start their work in earnest after the holidays. Keep your eyes peeled for exciting updates on their work in the months ahead and feel free (encouraged) to reach out to them with thoughts and suggestions or, to reach out to Kimberly to express your interest in joining one of these new committees or participating in SASS leadership in another way!

Announcements

newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org

SASS Seeking Book Talk Nominations

The Executive Council seeks nominations for upcoming books to highlight with our bi-annual book talk. Nominations should be new or upcoming releases in the field of Scandinavian Studies. The author will, ideally, be a member in good standing of SASS. Nominations will be accepted from any SASS member, including the author themselves. Please email the author's name, contact information, book title, and a brief (200 word) description of the text to sassbooktalk@

scandinavianstudy.org. Nominations will be accepted on a rolling basis.

For more information, visit: <https://scandinavianstudy.org/sass-book-talk/>

SASS Book Subvention

The Executive Council seeks applications for a publication subvention program for junior & senior faculty, non-tenure track faculty, and independent scholars to support innovative independent and original research-based scholarship in the fields of Nordic studies.

For more information, visit: <https://scandinavianstudy.org/awards-fellowships/book-subvention/>



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, announce-

ments 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

Getting Around Minneapolis, What to expect in the Book Room, and the preliminary schedule for SASS 2025: Minneapolis!



FALL 2024 BOOK TALK

sassbooktalk@scandinavianstudy.org

Watch Online!

THE GREAT DEBATE: NIETSCHE, CULTURE, AND THE SCANDINAVIAN WELFARE STATE

Visit the SASS YouTube Chanel to view the 2024 Book Talk between translator and editor Dr. William Banks and Dr. Benjamin Teitelbaum. The talk focuses on Banks' book "The Geat Debate: Nietzsche, Culture and the Scandinavian Welfare State", including a new ranslation of Georg Brandes 1889 essay "Aristocratic Radicalism: An Essay on Friedrich Nietzsche," and the ensuing exchange between Brandes and Harald Høffding.

Described by the University of Wisconsin Press as the first full translation of this important debate, the press further describes the book as "Marking the moment at which the uniquely Nordic concept of social democratic welfare was first contested in the public sphere, this debate provides insights into not only Nietzschean philosophy and its immediate reception but also the foundational concept of modern Scandinavian social, cultural, and political organization. This volume presents, for the first time in any language other than Danish, the debate in its entirety: three essays by Brandes and three by Høffding. A critical introduction by editor and translator William Banks explores the exchange in its context and convincingly argues that the principles contested by the two Danish luminaries still very much resonate in Western society today."



Click here to view: <https://youtu.be/VkPPHwiukUM?si=jfbd5Qr9XfPkBbkQ>

SASS 2025 Executive Council Elections

Direct all election related questions to: [Olivia Gunn, vice-president@scandinavianstudy.org](mailto:Olivia.Gunn@scandinavianstudy.org)

The SASS constitution states, "The candidates for executive office and the executive council shall be elected by the majority of votes from the membership of the Society which reach the Executive Director within sixty days of the distribution of electronic ballots." Those thus elected shall take office at the close of the annual meeting of the year in which they are elected. The Executive Council is empowered to make all decisions for the Society, unless otherwise designated in the SASS constitution and by-laws.

On the following pages you will find descriptions of the positions on the Executive Council, and their respective terms and duties. Follow News & Notes to get to know the sitting members of the Executive Council. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Council, reach out to Vice President Olivia Noble Gunn at vice-president@scandinavianstudy.org.

INSTRUCTIONS

The SASS Executive Council election is now open.

Voting closes on February 1, 2025.

You will need your VoterID and VoterKey to log in. If your membership is current, your VoterID and VoterKey will have been sent to you via email with a link to the ballot. If you have not received this email, please reach out to the ED at exec-director@scandinavianstudy.org. If you are just joining SASS now or renewing an expired membership, you will need to reach out to the ED to be added to the voter list.

JOIN:

<https://app.glueup.com/org/sascandstudy/memberships/>

RENEW:

<https://app.glueup.com/account/login?ret=%2FuU0YNu-PurGLxSk82a1pyQ%3D%3D>

VOTE!

<https://vote.electionrunner.com/election/CBdWw>

Duties of the Executive Officers

Questions? | info@scandinavianstudy.org

PRESIDENT

The SASS President serves a six year term - two years as Vice President, two years as President, and two years as Financial Officer. During their two years as president they act as the leader of the Executive Council and the academic head of SASS. They also lead the Executive Committee.

VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President serves a six year term - two years as Vice President, two years as President, and two years as Financial Officer. During their two years as Vice President they act as the head of the Baldwin Fellowship Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Strategic Planning Committee. They serve as the recording secretary at Council Meetings and serve on the Executive Committee.

FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Financial Officer serves a six year term - two years as Vice President, two years as President, and two years as Financial Officer. During their two years as Financial Officer they provide oversight over SASS's finances and the financial duties of the Executive Director, They also serve as liason to the Conference Organizing Committee and serve on the Executive Council.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director is the only full-time SASS employee and is the only non-elected member of the Executive Council. The ED runs the day-to-day operations of the society, including financial oversight, IT, conference organization, communications, management of the Executive Council duties, and all the other tasks that keep the society running. They also serve as a member of the Executive Council.

Duties of the Executive Council Representatives

Questions? | info@scandinavianstudy.org

LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

There are four Language and Literature representatives serving on the council at any given time. L&L representatives serve a four year term, with a new member starting their term at every conference. During their time on the council, L&L representatives serve on the Aurora Borealis Committee, the Baldwin Committee and other organizational committees as needed. EC members are asked to attend four full council meetings per year - three virtual meetings and the in-person meeting that takes place at the annual conference.

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

There are four History and Social Science representatives serving on the council at any given time. HSS representatives serve a four year term, with a new member starting their term at every conference. During their time on the council, HSS representatives serve on the Aurora Borealis Committee, the Haugen Committee and other organizational committees as needed. EC members are asked to attend four full council meetings per year - three virtual meetings and the in-person meeting that takes place at the annual conference.

INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS/ INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

There will be two Independent Scholar/Institutional Member Representatives on the Executive Council after this coming election. IS representatives serve a four year term, with a new member starting their term every two years. During their time on the council, IS representatives serve on organizational committees as needed. The council is in the process of standardizing the committee duties of IS representatives. Representatives are asked to attend four full council meetings per year - three virtual meetings and the in-person meeting that takes place at the annual conference.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

There will be two Graduate Student Representatives on the Executive Council after this coming election. GS representatives serve a two year term, with a new member starting their term every year. During their time on the council, GS representatives serve on organizational committees as needed. The council is in the process of standardizing the committee duties of IS representatives. Representatives are asked to attend four full council meetings per year - three virtual meetings and the in-person meeting that takes place at the annual conference.

Executive Officer Candidates



Rosemary
Erickson Johnsen

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA,
CROOKSTON

I am the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Minnesota Crookston. My research focuses on crime fiction and public humanities. My publications include *Contemporary Feminist Historical Crime Fiction* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006), the co-edited volume *Public Scholarship in Literary Studies* (Amherst College Press, 2021), and many articles in journals, essay collections, and public-facing outlets. I have been on the *Journal of Popular Culture's* editorial advisory board since 2008, and I was recently appointed to a 5-year term on the executive committee of the MLA's forum on women and gender studies. With SASS, since 2012 I have been a member, regular conference presenter, and book reviewer for *Scandinavian Studies*; this year completes my term as language and literature representative on the Executive Council (2021-2025).

The landscape in which scholarly organizations find themselves is changing, and my administrative capabilities, track record of collaborative leadership, and broad public scholarship commitments would serve SASS well. As someone coming to SASS from an adjacent disciplinary base, I see clearly its stature and value its longevity. I joined the Executive Council because I believe in SASS's mission and have a vision for its future as a hub for Scandinavian Study engagement. I am running for vice president because I believe I can help SASS not only meet current challenges but also build a sustainable future.



Natalie
Van Deusen

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

I am delighted to be considered for the position of Vice President of SASS. I was recently elected to the SASS Executive Council as a Language and Literature Representative, and it has been an absolute pleasure to be able to give back to this academic society. SASS is a place where I have formed and maintained meaningful personal and professional connections, where I have had the opportunity to learn from my colleagues, and where I have received important feedback on my own scholarly work. As a North American working in Scandinavian Studies, it is an organization in which I feel a strong sense of belonging and fellowship. As Vice President of SASS, I hope to work especially on accessibility initiatives and to continue to forge meaningful connections and collaboration with the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada (AASSC).

I received my PhD in 2012 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I am a specialist in Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic literature, with a focus on paleography and philology, hagiography and religious literature, and women's and gender studies. I am also a scholar who both lives with disability and studies how disability was constructed, experienced, and understood in medieval Nordic society. My current research focuses on the representation and influence of female saints in Old Norse-Icelandic literature, with a particular emphasis on narratives relating to gendered expectations and presentations of disability.

I currently hold the Henry Cabot and Linnea Lodge Scandinavian Studies Professorship at the University of Alberta. I am the Past President of AASSC and am currently Editor-in-Chief of *Scandinavian-Canadian Studies*. I am the Canadian Representative for the International Saga Conference Advisory Board. I am also former Chair of the MLA Discussion Group on Old Norse Language and Literature, and former Chair of the Canadian Initiative for Nordic Studies.

Language and Literature Candidates



**Benjamin
Bigelow**

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA,
TWIN CITIES**

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Benjamin Bigelow is an assistant professor of German, Nordic, Slavic & Dutch in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. He joins the IAS as a residential faculty fellow for Fall 2021.

Ben is at work on a project titled "Scandinavian Racial Ecologies," which examines how competing claims of cultural identity and racial belonging are related to different understandings of the environment. With a strong background in film and a manuscript in progress, Ben's approach in this project acknowledges that, while claims of (white) Nordic identity, both in Scandinavia and in the US, are based on nature mythologies that draw direct connections between ethnicity and physical territory, emerging insights from ecology present a much less rigidly bound and territorial world. This project will move beyond the screen and result in a series of student- and community-oriented workshops, furthering ongoing collaborations with scholars at other institutions to shift discussions of Scandinavian cultures in the Twin Cities so that they reflect the diversity and complexity of Scandinavian societies today. Ultimately, these workshops will also further efforts to de-colonize and diversify the Scandinavian Studies curriculum at the U of M.



**Lynn
Wilkinson**

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, AUSTIN

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Lynn Wilkinson holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Berkeley and is currently professor of Germanic Studies, Comparative Literature, and Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Texas. Her publications include *The Dream of an Absolute Language: Emanuel Swedenborg and French Literary Culture*, *Anne Charlotte Leffler and Modernist Drama: True Women and New Women on the Fin-de-siècle Scandinavian Stage*, and *Laughter and Civility: The Theater of Emma Gad*, as well as numerous articles on Scandinavian and European literature and film. Her research and teaching focus on Scandinavian and European literature of the long nineteenth century and Scandinavian film.

"Many of the challenges facing SASS and Scandinavianists in 2024 are common to all academics working in the humanities: finding adequate funding for our work and research, explaining their value to the public at large and to administrators who all too often adopt corporate models for the university, inventing new ways to collaborate with colleagues in the United States and abroad, and keeping the doors open for young scholars who will continue and renew the field. Because Scandinavian Studies is a relatively small field, we feel these challenges especially sharply. Our colleagues often know very little about Scandinavian Studies, despite the interesting work being done in the field in this country and Scandinavia; we need to do a better job of publicizing what we do. We also need to develop new models for majors and minors in Scandinavian Studies, perhaps alongside traditional approaches. As a member of the SASS Executive Council, I would hope to work on two fronts, defending and explaining our field and its traditions and brainstorming with colleagues about how best to adapt to contemporary challenges."

History and Social Science Candidates



Joe
Gonzalez

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
FULLERTON

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My name is Joe Gonzalez. I am Professor of Liberal Studies at California State University, Fullerton where I teach courses on the arts and humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences from Antiquity to the Renaissance. My academic interest is primarily focused on European cultural and intellectual history with a focus on sixteenth century Scandinavia. My research is centered on understandings of the body and includes the uses of ritual in the expression and negotiation of power relationships, gender, the study of material culture, food studies, and the history of medicine. I have published a variety of articles on death and funerary practice, royal ritual, humanist oration at the court of the Vasa kings, and the uses of art in shaping memory and history. I am a former president of the Renaissance Conference of Southern California and the Scandinavian History Society. As a scholar of Scandinavia who teaches outside of a Scandinavian department, I recognize the essential role SASS plays in providing intellectual support and collegiality to the many scholars like myself who labor in similar situations. In an academic environment where the humanities, social sciences, and Scandinavian Studies, in particular, are increasingly under threat, I know how crucial it is to bring together scholars to offer mutual support and to try to develop strategies for survival and a way forward in challenging times. Over the years, SASS has provided me with an academic community, inspiration, and many good friends. It would be a great pleasure for me to serve an organization that has given me so much.



Jason
Lavery

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

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Jason Lavery is Regents Professor of History at Oklahoma State University and Adjunct Professor (Docent) of Church History of Finland and Scandinavia at Helsinki University. He is also a corresponding member of the Finnish Literature Society and a research member of the Finnish Historical Association. He has published three books and tens of articles on the history of Finland, Scandinavia, Germany, and the Baltic Sea Region. His most recent book is *Reforming Finland: The Diocese of Turku in the Age of Gustav Vasa 1523-1560* (2017). He is currently working on a book on the Reformation in Finland 1560-1611. Jason Lavery has served SASS in several positions. He was SASS president 2009-2011. He looks forward to working with a new generation of leadership.

Independent/Institutional Candidates



Tova
Brandt

MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA



Troy
Wellington Smith

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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Tova Brandt is a museum professional with experience in history, immigration and Nordic studies. Since 2019 she has served as the Executive Director for the Museum of Danish America, the national museum dedicated to Danish immigration to the U.S., Danish-American history, and the ongoing cultural influences of Denmark on the United States. Prior to serving as director, she was the museum's Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture responsible for exhibitions and programs. From 2001 to 2009 she was a curator for Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa. She earned a bachelor's degree in history from Bryn Mawr College and a master's degree in early American culture from the University of Delaware's Winterthur Program.

In addition to her work at the Museum of Danish America, Tova currently serves on the board of the Danish American Heritage Society, an organization dedicated to supporting and sharing research about the Danish-American experience. If elected to the SASS Executive Council, Tova would aim to represent both museum communities and Nordic heritage organizations. Her experience developing diverse exhibitions with consulting scholars gives her an appreciation for the opportunities available when we create bridges between academia and general audiences.

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I am the Nordic Area Reference Librarian at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, where I am responsible for the collections, reference, and outreach pertaining to Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. In my personal capacity, I will publish a translation of Thomasine Gyllembourg's *To Tidsaldre* (Two Ages) in Brill's *Texts from Golden Age Denmark* series in 2025. In 2023, I earned a PhD in Scandinavian languages and literatures from the University of California, Berkeley, with a dissertation entitled "Kierkegaard and the Aesthetics of the Book." With my background in Scandinavian studies and librarianship, I hope to make a unique contribution to the Executive Council.

I have been attending the SASS annual conference regularly since 2015. I am seeking a seat on the Executive Council not only because it will allow me to stay connected with the field; through this service, I can also show my thanks to the Society for fostering my development as a scholar. I am grateful not just for the Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Scholarship, which I received in 2020, but also for the nurturing and supportive environment that the Society provides for its graduate students. If elected as institutional council member, I will bring practical knowledge of Nordic and Nordic-American library collections and archives to the evaluation and augmentation of graduate and postdoctoral research grant applications. I also hope to find other ways of connecting scholars in the Society to relevant resources in our host cities or in the Nordic region.

Graduate Student Candidates



Ian
Gwin

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

I'm a translator and Ph.D. student (pre-candidacy) in the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington. My research focuses on decadence, symbolism, and the fairy tale in Nordic and Baltic literatures. For my dissertation, "Iceflower and the Shipwreck" I compare the uses of folklore during the fin de siècle through the mutual development of Finnish and Estonian national literatures. My most recent translation is the short story collection *Berlin* by Andris Kuprišs, forthcoming with Open Letter Books.

I'm honored to be considered for the SASS executive council. Since first attending online in 2020, SASS has been an important part of my professional development and immersion into the field. The opportunity to present my research and the support I received at the conference was key to completing my MA at the UW in 2022, focusing on Estonian decadence.

I'm excited to be involved more closely with the organization, and to give back to the broader network of scholars. In my role as council member, I'm committed to providing further opportunities and funding for graduate students. I'm also interested in networking and integrating Baltic topics and research into Scandinavian Studies, as a scholar of Latvian and Lithuanian literature, and as a member of the international research project, "Emergence of a Civilized Nation: Decadence and Transitionality 1905-1940."



Benjamin
Wilson

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Benjamin Wilson is a PhD student in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His undergraduate education at the Pennsylvania State University culminated in an honors thesis about the effects of Christianity in Viking-Age Denmark, which sparked his interest in historical Scandinavia. He completed his MA in Scandinavian Studies at UW-Madison in spring 2024, and is currently pursuing his interests in Old Norse-Icelandic literature and the sagas, looking to deepen his understanding of philology and apply it to his research, especially through a queer lens. As a teaching assistant in the German, Nordic, Slavic+ department at UW-Madison, he has taught literature courses on Hans Christian Andersen, and literature-folklore courses about vampires. He received a FLAS award in summer 2022 to jumpstart his Norwegian education, and a second FLAS to study at the International Summer School at the University of Oslo in summer 2023. As a representative of the Nordic Graduate Student Association at UW-Madison and member of the social committee, he believes in the importance of fostering connection within the unit, and with graduate students in other units within the larger department. He hopes to apply this on a larger scale as a Graduate Student Representative on the executive council for SASS and utilize the position to build community and connections between scholars.



Presidential Theme

LOCATION

The SASS 2025 conference will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the Minneapolis Marriott City Center from April 24-26th. The presidential theme of this SASS meeting is *Location*.

Location is a central theme to all our work. Between Literature, Linguistics, History, Area Studies, and Indigenous Studies, location is often the first consideration, inseparable from questions of positionality, context, and identity. A central reflection with this theme is how our own discipline engages with location. Do North American Scandinavianists approach the questions at hand differently than their Scandinavian colleagues? Are there different reasons for why the questions are asked? Critical engagement with location makes us reconsider concepts like locale and place.

This year's meeting will be held in collaboration with the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada (AASSC). Please see page XX for details about submissions to the AASSC panels.



To Submit an Abstract:

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/76367/submitter>



Abstracts Due. January 7, 2024

CALL FOR PAPERS

Whether it is openly acknowledged or not, location is a concept that underlies almost all of the scholarly work we do. In fields such as literature, linguistics, history, area studies, and indigenous studies, location is often the first consideration, inseparable from questions of positionality, context, and identity.

An international conference such as SASS offers the opportunity to juxtapose work being done on similar topics from scholars who gather from a variety of locations, so papers and panels that draw attention to the geographical situatedness of scholarly work are especially encouraged. Pre-constituted panels, for instance, that are intentionally set up to include presenters representing diverse locations and institutional affiliations working on similar areas from their distinct perspectives, would be especially appreciated.

For more details about the theme, go to [page 13](#).

Papers and panels that do not explicitly engage with the presidential theme are, naturally and as always at SASS, also welcome.

Details for submitting directly to the AASSC panels can be found on [page 16](#).

To Submit an Abstract:

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/76367/submitter>



Presidential Theme

LOCATION continued...

A central question raised by this theme is how our own discipline(s) engage with location. Do Scandinavianists working outside of the Nordic region approach research questions differently than their Scandinavian colleagues because they work in geographically and culturally distinct locations? Are there empirical and/or theoretical differences? In what ways does Scandinavian studies scholarship on both sides of the Atlantic engage with each other? What are the consequences of foregrounding location in one's own scholarship? What are the challenges or pitfalls of engaging with notions of "the local" within a field of discourse that increasingly conceives itself as transnational and even global? Are there assumptions that scholars working in Scandinavian, Nordic, or Arctic studies make about location that ought to be critiqued or reconsidered in the twenty-first century? How does digital technology mediate and challenge conventional understandings of location? In what ways does an emphasis on the local persist in a digital age, despite the ability of digital communication technology to seemingly transcend the limitations of physical location? How do Scandinavian or Nordic media narratives— as well as media themselves—reimagine ideas about location in the contemporary world? How does contemporary scholarship in the SASS disciplines

To Submit an Abstract:

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/76367/submitter>



STREAMS

Every year, the organizers solicit stream proposals from the SASS membership. These streams reflect the year's Presidential Theme, as well as the work being done by scholars across the SASS community. The organizers encourage you to review this year's streams outlined on the pages below and to consider submitting your abstract to one of them.. As always, there is also a general paper pool. If you do not see a stream that compliments your research, feel free to submit to the general pool.

For more details about a stream, click on the title below.

- AASSC: Canadian Nordic Studies [\(page 16\)](#)
- New Frontiers and the Land Left Behind [\(pg 17\)](#)
- Dis-location [\(pg 18\)](#)
- Musical Heritage of Norwegian Immigrants in the Upper Midwest [\(pg 19\)](#)
- Identity Within the Nordic Music Traditions [\(pg 20\)](#)
- Ibsen Society of America: Annual Ibsen Panel [\(pg 21\)](#)

To Submit an Abstract:

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/76367/submitter>

CANADIAN NORDIC STUDIES

In line with this year's conference theme of "Location," this stream will investigate and explore the ways that the location of Canada matters in terms of Nordic studies. In particular, we invite papers to this stream that explore intersections between the Nordic regions and Canada, including Nordic-Canadian culture studies, Canadian approaches to Nordic studies, and Arctic and circumpolar studies. Possible foci for presentations and panels include:

- Nordic migration to Canada; the formation of ethnic and/or interethnic communities in Canada
- Nordic experiences with settler colonialism in Canada
- Dialogues on Indigenous experiences in Canada and the Nordic regions
- Canadian approaches to Nordic studies
- Conceptualisations, depictions, and manifestations of "the North" in Canadian and Nordic culture and society, including reflections on issues on nature, of the environment, the Arctic, as well as questions of urbanity and rurality
- The "state of the field" of Nordic studies in Canadian universities
- Cultural sustainability, and cultural and social needs for Nordic ethnic communities in Canada today

We encourage participation in critical discourses that respond to or challenge the jurisdictions and categorisations of Canadian Nordic studies, particularly through the complications of localities — conceptual, social, political, and geographical. Accordingly, this stream complicates



ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
**SCANDINAVIAN
STUDIES IN CANADA**

L'ASSOCIATION POUR L'AVANCEMENT DES
**ÉTUDES SCANDINAVES
AU CANADA**

**Question regarding this stream can be directed to:
Natalie Van Deusen, vandeuse@ualberta.ca**

NEW FRONTIERS AND THE LAND LEFT BEHIND

The great waves of emigration from Scandinavia to the United States ended with the implementation of Immigration Act of 1924. The experiences of the Scandinavian emigrants in their new locations have been extensively explored and are a part of the national canon. Emigration research has moreover focused on the United States as a receiving country and the Scandinavian influences on American societal development, such as the influential conception that states with a higher population of Scandinavian descendants have higher levels of social trust and associated benefits.

Although the emigration issue was one of the most contentious issues in Scandinavian societies at the time, evident in the public discourse and official initiatives to stem the flow of citizens leaving, there has been relatively little research on the impact on the sending countries. This stream aims to explore how the exodus of up to 25% of the population had political and cultural implications on the Scandinavian/exiting countries and the places left behind. The possibility of exit became a powerful voice of discontent that amplified the voices of those who remained and became a catalyst for change. The stream furthermore seeks to examine the exchange and flows of ideas between the US and Scandinavia and the ongoing dialogue between the two locations and how the exchanges helped to usher in societal changes in Scandinavia at the turn of the century.

The stream will explore the impact and changes brought on by emigration across disciplinary boundaries.

Possible foci for presentations and panels include:

- Exit as voice: the effects of emigration on democratisation processes and social structures in Scandinavia
- Voice after exit: how emigrant experiences were communicated to and dispersed in Scandinavia
- Social remittances: the ongoing dialogues between the locations and the transfer of ideas, knowledge, values and attitudes
- The emergence of civil society and popular movements in Scandinavia and their close contacts with American counterparts



**Question regarding this stream can be directed to:
Kristina Tolinsson Ting, kristina.tolinsson.ting@ut.ee**

DIS-LOCATION

Studies examining location tend to be topophilic because they normally signal a commitment to foregrounding the perceived virtues of place: connection, community, and identity. Similarly, “emplacement” as a critical method typically signals a commitment to historical realities, authentic experience, and archival evidence that works to undo prescriptive ideologies and the abstraction of theory. Something is imagined to be recovered by turning to the idea of location.

But what of unease with place? Robert Tally calls this mode of dis-location topophobia, thereby intending to capture not the outright fear of place (that would be topophobia) but instead an awareness of the contingency of inhabitation. He wants the term to convey “a certain identifiable ‘place-mindedness’ that informs our activities and thinking” (Topophobia, 23), one that with its medical suffix comes close to signaling disorder or disease but should more properly be used to describe experiences of dis-ease. Freudian notions of Unbehagen and the Unheimlich are clearly in play for Tally, as is the idea of “not-thriving” (vantrivsel).

This stream calls for papers that engage with literature, film, drama, and media and/or cultural practices that are interested in a negative “place-mindedness”: depictions of being uneasy or out of place, of haunting’s temporal competition for place, or of spatial mobility (such as exile or migration) experienced as dis-location. What do each of these negations of topophilic ideas of location say about the sense of attachment that is missing?

EXAMPLES of possible emphases for presentations and panels:

- Depictions of fictional characters in Nordic literatures (broadly conceived) who seem exceptionally out of place or ill at ease
- Narrative strategies that work to foreground consciousness of literary place as more than a setting
- Works that “dis” the idea of location by calling into question the norms and virtues of remaining “in place”
- Representations of exile, diaspora, and settler colonialism as “dis-ease”



**Question regarding this stream can be directed to:
Mark Sandberg, sandberg@berkeley.edu**

THE MUSICAL HERITAGE OF NORWEGIAN IMMIGRANTS IN THE UPPER MIDWEST

Norwegian immigrants who settled in the American Upper-Midwest during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries brought with them a rich tradition of both art and folk music for diverse purposes, including choral singing, congregational hymnody, dance and celebratory music, and concert repertoire. These immigrants established several institutions of higher learning, ensuring that their artistic traditions would be cultivated and shared with later generations. Key figures of Norwegian descent have had nation-wide influence on musical styles up to the present day, while collaborations between Norwegian citizens and the descendants of Norwegian-American immigrants continue to make vibrant contributions to the musical landscape of both urban areas and small towns across the prairies and woodlands of the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Although the circumstances of everyday life experienced by Norwegian immigrants were often very different from those of their counterparts in Norway, music has remained a thread that binds together those who left their homeland and those who stayed behind, giving individuals living on both sides of the ocean today a common point on which to build modern relationships.

This thematic stream will underscore the contributions Norwegians have made to music since the nineteenth century while highlighting the contributions immigrants made to cultural life and society, especially in the Upper Midwest of the United States. Tracing those contributions and studying cross-cultural influences will serve as the bases for assessing the indelible impact they have on Norwegian and Norwegian-American composers throughout the twentieth century and today.



**Question regarding this stream can be directed to:
Marla Fogderud, marla.fogderud@northern.edu**

IDENTITY WITHIN THE NORDIC MUSIC

This stream welcomes papers, lecture-recitals, and full recitals that focus on themes of Nordic musical identity. With the ever growing prominence of a global awareness of contemporary Nordic musical composition, much of which is supported contemporarily by the Council of Nordic Composers, we would like to encourage the submission of themes that approach a multidisciplinary view. Topics including historical musicology, ethnomusicology, contemporary performance practice and specified composition are all encouraged to submit to this stream.

If proposing a lecture-recital or full-recital, please detail the compositions, the performers, and the performers biographies.

The composers listed below have significant anniversaries this year, and will be given particular consideration

- Bernhard Henrik Crusell (1775-1838)
- Georg Gerson (1790-1825)
- Johan Peter Emilius Hartmann (1805–1900)
- Andreas Hallén (1846–1925)
- Peter Erasmus Lange-Müller (1850–1926)
- Erkki Melartin (1875–1937)
- Uno Klami (1900–61)
- Karl Ottó Rúnólfsson (1900-1970)
- William Heinesen (1900-1991)
- Magnús Blöndal Jóhannsson (b. 1925)
- Aullis Sallinen (b. 1935)



Question regarding this stream can be directed to:
Colin Levin, ColinLevin@gmail.com

IBSEN SOCIETY OF AMERICA

ANNUAL IBSEN PANEL

All proposed papers relevant to Ibsen studies will be considered for the Annual Ibsen Society of America (ISA) panel at SASS. The ISA panel aims to support the field of Ibsen studies by showcasing cutting edge research on Ibsen from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. Proposals for sharing new research on Ibsen and “movement,” as well as proposals guided by other themes and approaches, are welcome. Within Ibsen studies, “movement” could refer to manifestations of Ibsen on global and local stages, the dynamics of theatrical practices, adaptation, the sociopolitics and history of drama and performance, and more. Papers in Ibsen studies not selected will be considered for other relevant streams and panels at SASS.



Question regarding this stream can be directed to:
Olivia Gunn, ogunn@uw.edu



Marriott Minneapolis City Center

BOOK YOUR ROOM

SASS 2025: Minneapolis will be held at the Marriott Minneapolis City Center. The conference hotel is in a prime location in downtown Minneapolis. Top attractions like the Target Center, Target Field and US Bank Stadium are close by and easily accessible all year round with climate-controlled skyways accessed directly from the hotel. The Mississippi River, The Waker Art Center, and the Guthrie Theater are all within 1.5 miles of the hotel. The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus and the American Swedish Institute are both just a short taxi ride away. Minneapolis–Saint Paul Interna-



tional Airport and the Mall of America is accessible via light rail and

To Book a Room:

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50888439>