

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

# News & Notes

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385.384.0371

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## VOLUME 73 | MARCH/APRIL 2026

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# Welcome to Brooklyn!

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contact the Brooklyn organizers | [sass2026@scandinavianstudy.org](mailto:sass2026@scandinavianstudy.org)

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to SASS 2026 in Brooklyn, New York.

Our annual meeting brings together scholars, teachers, students, and community members from across disciplines to explore the languages, literatures, histories, and cultures of the Nordic region and the Nordic diaspora. This year's program reflects the breadth and vitality of our field, with panels and roundtables that engage topics ranging from medieval literature to contemporary politics, migration, memory, and cultural exchange.

We are especially delighted to gather in Brooklyn, one of the most dynamic cultural centers in the United States and a fitting setting for conversations that cross borders, disciplines, and historical periods. Over the course of the conference, we hope you will take full advantage not only of the academic sessions, but also of the many opportunities to reconnect with colleagues, meet new collaborators, and engage in the vibrant intellectual community that makes SASS such a special organization.

We extend our sincere thanks to the many people and institutions whose generosity and hard work made this conference possible, including our host venues, the American Scandinavian Foundation, and the members of the organizing and program committees.

Whether this is your first SASS conference or one of many, we are delighted that you are here. Welcome to Brooklyn—we wish you a stimulating and enjoyable meeting.

Mvh,

*Kimberly*

Kimberly LaPalm | SASS Executive Director





# Be a part of SASS!

## EXISTING MEMBERS

Already have a membership that needs renewal? Not sure when your renewal date is? Sign into your SASS account at the link below! If you have not signed in before, you will need to select the “Request Password” button to create a log-in.

<https://scandinavianstudy.org/member-log-in/#myaccount>

## NEW MEMBERS

Visit <https://scandinavianstudy.org/new-member-sign-up/#join> to join

## MEMBERSHIP TIERS

**Sponsor, Sustaining, and + memberships** include a physical copy of **Scandinavian Studies**, our quarterly journal

- **Sponsor**.....\$400
- **Sustaining**.....\$200
- **Standard+** .....\$150
- **Standard**.....\$130
- **Student+** .....\$70
- **Student** .....\$50
- **Limited Resource+**....\$100
- **Limited Resource**.....\$80

**QUESTIONS?** Email Kimberly at [exec-director@scandinavianstudy.org](mailto:exec-director@scandinavianstudy.org)

# Announcements

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[newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org](mailto:newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org)

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## SHARE YOUR RESEARCH IN SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES

Have new work on Nordic language, literature, history, or culture? Submit it to *Scandinavian Studies*, the quarterly journal of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS).

Founded in 1911, *Scandinavian Studies* is the oldest journal in the field and a leading venue for innovative scholarship—from Old Norse and folklore to modern literature, film, and transnational studies. Join a community of scholars shaping the future of Scandinavian research.



**Find more info here:** <https://sca.uwpress.org/content/authors>

**Questions:** [editor@scandinavianstudy.org](mailto:editor@scandinavianstudy.org)

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## 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 authors themselves. Please email the author's name, contact information, book title, and a brief (200 word) description of the text to [sassbooktalk@scandinavianstudy.org](mailto:sassbooktalk@scandinavianstudy.org). Nominations will be accepted on a rolling basis.

***Join us for our next Book Talk at SASS 2026: Brooklyn! Details on page 18***

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

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## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have questions or concerns about accessibility at SASS events or within the organization? We want to hear from you! Please reach out to Todd at [accessibility@scandinavianstudy.org](mailto:accessibility@scandinavianstudy.org) to share feedback, request accommodations, or discuss ways we can make SASS more inclusive and accessible to all members.

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# Announcements

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newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org

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**A**s a non-profit membership organization, SASS relies on the generosity of members and supporters whose contributions make our work possible. Guided by the SASS 2028 Strategic Plan, the Fundraising Committee has identified key goals and established dedicated funds to advance them. Together, we can make these initiatives a reality through the following funds:

## ANNUAL FUND

Your gift to the Annual Fund keeps SASS strong. It sustains programs like book talks, connects members through News & Notes, and supports the publication of Scandinavian Studies. With a yearly goal of \$50,000, every contribution—no matter the size—helps us grow and serve our community.

## GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT

Graduate students are the future of our field. Your gift helps reduce financial barriers by covering conference fees, accommodations, and awards like the Aurora Borealis. With a goal of raising \$100,000 by SASS 2028, every contribution brings us closer to ensuring lasting support for emerging scholars.

## SASS 2026 BROOKLYN

The SASS annual conference is the highlight of our year—and we work hard to keep registration costs low. Your gift helps subsidize expenses, support new sponsorship opportunities, and grow our exhibitor hall. Contributions to SASS 2026: Brooklyn directly sustain this cornerstone event.



Click the link below or scan the QR code above to donate

<https://scandinavianstudy.org/about-us/support-us/>

# Funding Opportunities

newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org



## DAGMAR & NILS WILLIAM OLSSON VISITING SCHOLAR AWARD

AT THE SWENSON SWEDISH IMMIGRATION RESEARCH CENTER

This award provides travel expense reimbursement of up to \$2,500 USD to support a research visit to the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center. The award is open to scholars conducting academic research on Swedish-American history or Swedish-American relations. Please note that this award is not intended for genealogical research.

Application deadline: May 20.

**Find more info here:** <https://www.swensoncenter.org/visitingscholaraward>



## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

AT THE SWEDISH EMIGRANT INSTITUTE IN VÄXJÖ

The Swedish Emigrant Institute announces an international research grant of up to SEK

30 000 (c. USD 3 000) for scholarly research in the collections of the Institute in Växjö, to be undertaken during 2026 – June 2027.

The fellowship is intended to cover travel to and from Växjö, accommodation in Växjö and a daily allowance to cover enhanced living expenses during the research stay in Växjö. The recipient is expected to spend from one to three weeks at the Swedish Emigrant Institute in Växjö.

Application deadline: May 15

**Find more info here:** <https://scandinavianstudy.org/announcements-2/#!board/Announcements/listing/research-fellowship>

Members can view or post announcements, fellowships,  
and job opportunities on our website.

[https://scandinavianstudy.org/announcements-2/#!board/  
Announcements](https://scandinavianstudy.org/announcements-2/#!board/Announcements)



# Call for Papers

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newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org

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## GLECC2026

### The Second International Conference on Globalisation/Deglobalisation in Languages, Education, Culture and Communication

28-30 July 2026, Manchester, UK

The past two decades have witnessed remarkable advancements in the studies into Education, Second and Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpreting, Cultural Studies, and Communication. This growth, evident in both the number of active researchers and the volume of scholarly throughput and outcomes, can be largely attributed to the forces of globalisation. Consequently, adopting the globalisation perspective is timely and provides a natural framework for connecting these diverse yet interlinked disciplines.

This conference aims to bring together researchers, educators, practitioners, and policymakers from the realms of education, foreign and second languages, cultural studies, translation, interpreting, and communication to disseminate research outcomes, share insights, discuss findings, exchange visions, and identify challenges and trends in an interactive and immersive multidisciplinary environment.

**Keynote speech:** "Translation, Chinese Texts, and World Literature" by Professor Yifeng Sun, University of Macau, China.

The conference is co-organised by AT Publishing in association with its journals namely, Research in Education Curriculum and Pedagogy: Global Perspectives (RECAP) [ISSN: 2977-1633]; New Perspectives on Languages (NPL) [ISSN: 3033-490X]; The International Journal of Chinese and English Translation & Interpreting (IJCETI) [ISSN: 2753-6149]; and Recent Advances in Humanities Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) [ISSN: 2978-1345]. There is a "conference first" policy in place. Selected papers will be invited to further develop into full journal articles free of APCs.

Conference proceedings will be published open access with an ISBN.

Submission deadline: 30 April 2026

<https://glecc.org/2026>

# Call for Papers

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newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org

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## CLCS Nordic Forum at the MLA

7-10 January 2027 | Los Angeles, CA

The CLCS Nordic Forum at the MLA invites abstracts on the theme “Freedom Dreaming and the Nordic Region.” In his 2002 volume *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination* (2002) Robin D. G. Kelley defines “freedom dreaming” as the radical practice of imagining collective liberation beyond the limits of the present—especially beyond what seems politically realistic under systems of racism, capitalism, patriarchy, and colonialism. “Without new visions,” he writes, “we don’t know what to build, only what to knock down.” The Nordic region is often lauded for its sociopolitical progressivism. Yet artists, activists, and critics have shown how the cardinal Nordic value of equality is experienced asymmetrically. They have given voice to “freedom dreams” of what to build beyond the Nordic welfare state. This panel solicits paper proposals that illuminate the histories and contexts of “freedom dreaming” in the Nordic region, discussing, for instance, particular configurations that inform, past or presently, the need for freedom dreaming. We welcome papers addressing authors, titles, or archives, professional or otherwise, that exemplify “freedom dreaming” within the Nordic region.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful submissions

Contact Wade Hollingshaus with your questions [wadeh@byu.edu](mailto:wadeh@byu.edu)



# Call for Papers

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newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org

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## Danish American Heritage Society 50th Anniversary Conference

May 2027 | Grandview University | Des Moines, Iowa

The Danish American Heritage Society was founded in 1977 in Junction City, Oregon, by Arnold and Edith Bodtker, two alumni of now Grand View University. From its beginnings, the Society's purpose has been to publish a journal that was both academic but also of interest to a wider audience. Over the past 48 years DAHS has published hundreds of articles, sponsored seven international conferences, offered grants to students and scholars for ongoing research, and awarded book prizes for works on Denmark and the Danish American experience.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Danish American Heritage Society's founding, the DAHS is again planning a major international conference on May 13-15, 2027, on the campus of Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa.

The conference theme is Bridges. The Society invites papers that explore the interconnections among people, space, and time through the cultural infusion of the Danish community into America and resulting new identities, expressions, and experience. Themes may include:

- Immigration
- Athletics
- Religion and Church History
- Food & Cooking
- Art
- Crafts & Woodworking
- Literature
- Lifestyles & Traditions
- Music
- Business
- History
- Technology
- Philosophy
- Education
- Famous Danish Americans

Proposals or abstracts should be sent to Dr. Matthew Plowman, History Department, Grand View University, 1200 Grandview Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50316 by August 31, 2026. Digital submissions should be sent to [mplowman@grandview.edu](mailto:mplowman@grandview.edu) Do not send any original artifacts, though copies of photographs or recordings are welcome.

[www.danishheritage.org](http://www.danishheritage.org)

# Open Position

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newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org

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## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

*NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA*

The Norwegian American Historical Association (NAHA) seeks an experienced and dynamic Executive Director to lead this nationally recognized organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Norwegian-American history and culture. This position offers the opportunity to work at the intersection of history, culture, and community engagement while managing a vital cultural institution.

The Norwegian American Historical Association inspires connections to Norwegian-American experiences through discovery, scholarship and stewardship. Archives, publications, educational programs and research are central to its mission. Located at St. Olaf College, NAHA serves as a vital resource for scholars, students, and the public interested in Norwegian-American heritage. Its website is located at <https://norwegianamericanhistory.org>

### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

Position Title: Executive Director - Norwegian American Historical Association.

Department: NAHA - Norwegian-American Historical Association.

Classification: Exempt.

FTE: 1.0.

Work Schedule: Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Occasional evening and weekend hours for special events. Travel: Up to 3% of work schedule (local Twin Cities metro area, with minimal national and international travel).

Work Location: Hybrid. WFH 1-2 days a week. Will work on campus fully for the first three months.

Salary Range: \$68,000 - \$77,000

**Find more info here:** <https://www.swensoncenter.org/visitingscholaraward>

# Open Position

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newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org

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## POST DOCTORAL SCHOLAR IN SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES

COLUMBUS, OHIO

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literature within the College of Arts and Sciences invites applications for a Post Doctoral Scholar in the field of Scandinavian Studies. Scholars with expertise in Old Norse are especially encouraged to apply. This position is supported by the Vorman-Anderson Faculty Fund for Nordic Languages and Literatures.

### Summary of Duties:

- Teach one undergraduate course per semester.
- In Autumn 2026, teach SCAN 3350: Norse Mythology and Medieval Culture or an equivalent course, depending on departmental needs.
- Assist with the administration and programming of the Umwelt Center for the Study of Germanic Cultures and the Environment.
- Engage in scholarly activity appropriate to the postdoctoral level.
- Participate in departmental activities and collaborate with faculty as appropriate.
- Work under the guidance of an assigned departmental mentor.

### Requirements

- Application materials must include:
- Cover letter that explicitly addresses the summary of studies and qualifications
- A curriculum vitae
- A research sample (no more than 30 pages)
- Names and contact information for three references
- Finalists may be asked for a sample undergraduate syllabus and a statement of teaching principles

**Review of applications will begin on April 22, 2026, and will continue until the position is filled.** For more information and to apply, follow the link below:

[https://osu.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/OSUCareers/job/Columbus-Campus/Post-Doctoral-Scholar---Scandinavian-Studies\\_R148391-1](https://osu.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/OSUCareers/job/Columbus-Campus/Post-Doctoral-Scholar---Scandinavian-Studies_R148391-1)



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

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# Open Position

[newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org](mailto:newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org)



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

*PORTLAND, OREGON*

Nordic Northwest is Hiring: Executive Director

Nordic Northwest (NNW), in Portland, Oregon, is seeking a dynamic and experienced Executive Director (ED) to guide our organization in its next phase of development. This individual should share our enthusiasm for NNW's mission, programs, vibrant community, and future potential. This opportunity is suited to a strategic, highly collaborative leader with nonprofit management experience and excellent people skills. The new ED should be excited to assume an active role in fostering relationships and partnerships, raising funds, and broadening our visibility in the Nordic community and beyond.

Starting salary is \$130,000 to \$150,000. Applications are due Sunday, April 12, 2026.

For more information about this opportunity visit [www.nordicnorthwest.org](http://www.nordicnorthwest.org)

## In the Next Issue

Meet the new Executive Council members, learn about the winners of this years fellowships and prizes, and more!





# BROOKLYN

SASS 26

The SASS 2026: Brooklyn organizers would like to welcome you to this year's conference. We are delighted to gather in New York City for several days of conversation, collaboration, and new connections across the field of Scandinavian and Nordic studies. This year's program highlights the theme of "Bridges," bringing together scholars, students, and partners from a wide range of disciplines, perspectives, and professional paths. We hope you will take advantage of the panels, keynote, professional development opportunities, and informal conversations throughout the conference. Thank you for being part of SASS 2026, and welcome to Brooklyn!

## **SASS 2026: BROOKLYN CONFERENCE AND STREAM ORGANIZERS**

Kelsey Fuller-Shafer | Joan Templeton | Joe Gonzalez | Colin Levin | Brad Harmon | Rachel Bott | Todd Michelson-Ambelang | Marcus Cederström | Troy Wellington-Smith | Olivia Noble Gunn | Natalie Van Deusen | Claus Elholm Andersen | Jule Allen (Brigham Young University) | Tosten Bøgh Thomsen | Pat Berman | MaryClaire Pappas | Øystein Sjøstad | Ida Moen Johnson | Maren Mecham | Anna Rue | Jason Schroeder | Melissa Gjellstad | Lotta Weckström | Lucia Hodgson | Marie Bennedahl



## **BUILDING CAREERS BEYOND THE ACADEMY: A PRE-CONFERENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENT**

Graduate students and early-career scholars are invited to connect with professionals who have followed non-traditional career paths with their language and area study skills, as well as with SASS academic career mentors, for practical advice on planning next steps within and beyond the academy. This pre-conference will help participants continue to develop the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to pursue meaningful, sustainable careers—within and beyond the academy.

**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2026

**10:00am–11:00 am**

### **From Scholarship to Industry: The Value of Advanced Degrees Beyond Academia**

Hear from industry professionals about how to market yourself—and your advanced degree—in the for-profit sector.

Moderator: Kimberly La Palm (Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study)

Speakers: Nathan Fischer (The Julliard School), **TBA, TBA, TBA**

**11:00 am–12:00 pm**

### **From Scholarship to New Careers: SASS Members on Life After Academia**

SASS members who have built careers in non-traditional roles share how they made the transition.

Moderator: Alison Change (American Council of Learned Societies)

Speakers: Todd Michelson Ambelang (University of Wisconsin Libraries), Dean Bennett (SUNY Schenectady), Leslie Anderson (Rollins Museum of Art), Amber Cederström (University of Wisconsin Press)

**12:00–3:00 pm**

### **Ask Me Anything: Careers Beyond Academia (Drop-In Sessions)**

Meet one-on-one with industry professionals and SASS members to ask questions, seek advice, and explore career possibilities both within and beyond the academy.

#### **Location:**

Scandinavia House | 58 Park Avenue | New York, NY 10016

**OBS!** SASS will be providing a professional headshot photographer at the conference hotel on **Saturday, April 25**. Pack your professional attire and stop by for a free professional photo.



## TOUR THE MORGAN LIBRARY WITH SASS

The Morgan Library & Museum is a museum and independent research library in the heart of New York City that began as the private collection of financier Pierpont Morgan, who from the 1890s assembled an extraordinary array of manuscripts, rare books, and works on paper. Built between 1902 and 1906 beside his Madison Avenue residence and designed by Charles McKim of McKim, Mead & White, the original Italian Renaissance-style library was conceived as both a functional repository and an architectural masterpiece, later opened to the public in 1924 by Morgan's son, J. P. Morgan, Jr. Since then, the Morgan has continued to grow through major acquisitions and expansions, including additional historic buildings and a transformative 2006 expansion by Renzo Piano that unified the campus, greatly expanded exhibition and public spaces, and integrated the institution's historic character with a modern visitor experience.

Join SASS Executive Council Member Troy Wellington Smith and other SASS members on a private visit to the Morgan Library. SASS attendees will be given a preview of the Morgan's upcoming exhibit on Johan Tobias Sergel as well as a special look at their collection of Norwegian and Danish Golden Age art. Space will be limited to 25 attendees. Pre-registration is open now!

**Date:** Thursday April 23, 2026

**Time:** 10:00-11:00 am

**Location:** The Morgan Library  
225 Madison Ave  
New York, NY 10016

**Learn more about the Morgan here:**  
<https://www.themorgan.org>

**Pre-register by selecting the Morgan Library Tour Add-on ticket when you register for the conference**



## ‘NO FLAGS IN YOUR POCKET’: AFROSCANDINAVIAN ART AND RHIZOMATIC BLACKNESS



Extending Ethelene Whitmire’s exploration of the experiences and artistic production of African American artists in Scandinavia, ‘No flags in your pocket’ places these artists and their art in dialogue with the lives and work of contemporary AfroScandinavian artists. Revealing the dynamism of conceptions of race, racialization, and Blackness over time and across space, this talk proposes that a “rhizomatic Blackness” emerges from this conversation, a way of thinking of AfroScandinavian identity formation within and with/out the Black diaspora.

### About Dr Miller:

Monica L. Miller is Chair and Professor of Africana Studies at Barnard College, Columbia University. A specialist in contemporary African American and Afro-diasporic literature and cultural studies, she is the author of the book *Slaves to Fashion: Black Dandyism and the Styling of Black Diasporic Identity*, which inspired *Superfine: Tailoring Black Style*, the 2025 Costume Institute exhibition at The Met. A frequent commentator in the media and arts worlds, she teaches and writes about Black literature, art, and performance, fashion cultures, and contemporary Black European culture and politics. She is currently at work on a book project, *Blackness Swedish Style: Race and the Rhizomatics of Being* which considers cultural production by the emerging black community in Sweden and its connection to Black European identity formation and cultural/political movements.

[monicamiller.com](http://monicamiller.com)

### ASF Opening Reception

Following the keynote, stay for our opening reception—an opportunity to meet Dr. Miller, reconnect with colleagues, and take in Scandinavia House’s current exhibition. Light refreshments will be provided.





## THE PAGANESQUE AND THE TALE OF VQLSI

Join Dr. Timothy Bourns (University of Washington) for a conversation with scholar and author Merrill Kaplan (The Ohio State University) as they discuss her new book, *The Paganesque and the Tale of Vqlsi*.

In this provocative study, Kaplan reexamines one of the most infamous stories in Old Norse literature—the tale of a pagan family who ritually worship a preserved horse penis, until the arrival of King Olaf the Saint. Traditionally dismissed as an obscene curiosity or relic of fertility cults, the *Tale of Vqlsi* becomes, in Kaplan's analysis, a sophisticated exploration of how medieval Icelanders imagined their pagan past.

**Join us during the conference!**

### About Dr Kaplan

Merrill Kaplan is Associate Professor of Folklore and Scandinavian Studies at The Ohio State University. Her scholarship focuses on Old Norse-Icelandic literature, myth, legend, and folk belief, with particular attention to the supernatural and cultural memory. She is the author of *Thou Fearful Guest* and has published widely on medieval Scandinavian texts and folklore theory.

**Buy a copy of the book here:**

<https://boydellandbrewer.com/book/the-paganesque-and-the-tale-of-vqlsi-9781843847021/>



**BROOKLYN**  
SASS 26

## DANA DINNER

Join the Danish Academic Network in America (DANA) for its annual dinner on Friday, April 24. New members welcome! Add "DANA Membership/Dinner" during SASS 2026 registration to pay your membership and reserve your spot.



The dinner will feature a guest speaker and will be conducted entirely in Danish. Time and location details will be shared by DANA closer to the event.

Questions? Contact Marianne Stecher-Hansen at [marianne@uw.edu](mailto:marianne@uw.edu). Event support provided by the Jens and Inger Bruun Legacy Grant from the ScanDesign Foundation.

## ASTRA FIKA

Join the Association of Swedish Teachers and Researchers in America (ASTRA) for fika and conversation (på svenska!) on Saturday, April 25 during the 10am coffee break. Grab some coffee and pastries and head over to the Ballroom Foyer to catch up with colleagues and learn more about plans for the ASTRA meeting to be held together with NORTANA this fall in Seattle.



Questions? Contact Chip Oscarson at [christopher\\_oscarson@byu.edu](mailto:christopher_oscarson@byu.edu).

Need to renew your ASTRA membership or join for the first time? Click this link: <http://www.astra.us/become-a-member>

## NORTANA

Nortana Board members will be available at coffee breaks.

Questions? Contact Kari Lie Dorer at [dorer@stolaf.edu](mailto:dorer@stolaf.edu)

Find more info about NORTANA here: <https://nortana.org>



# REGISTRATION



## **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

### **REGISTRATION RATES**

- Standard Rate: \$385 (Early Bird: \$335)
- Student Rate: \$200 (Early Bird: \$150)

Includes access to all regular sessions, the keynote, Thursday evening reception, and Saturday banquet.

#### **Early Bird Registration Available until March 15, 2026**

- One-Day Rate: \$125

Includes access to all sessions and coffee breaks for Friday or Saturday only. Does not include admission to the Thursday keynote and reception or the Saturday banquet.

- Keynote and Opening Reception Only: \$75

Admits one individual to the Thursday keynote and reception.

- Exhibitor Registration: \$1,000

Includes one 6-ft display table and one representative's full access to all conference events.

See page 17 for details.

### **TICKET ADD-ONS**

Additional Banquet Ticket: \$150

Pre-Conference Professional Development Event: Free (pre-registration required)

Private Tour of the Morgan Library: Free (pre-registration required; limited to 25 attendees)

Graduate Student Social Event: \$10

(pre-registration required)

**Click Here to Register:**

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/register/event/74957?preview=false>





## SASS 2026: BROOKLYN EXHIBITORS

Showcase your organization, publications, or products at the SASS 2026: Brooklyn Exhibitor Hall—the hub of our Annual Meeting! Reserve a table to connect with scholars, educators, and cultural leaders from across the Nordic world. Exhibitors enjoy prime visibility during coffee breaks, receptions, and dedicated exhibit hours. Whether you're a publisher, academic program, cultural institution, or Nordic-focused business, the hall is a vibrant space to share your work and strengthen community ties. Reserve your table today and be part of the conversation!

**Exhibitor Registration Fee: \$1,000**

*EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION INCLUDES:*

- One 6-ft table and two chairs
- Full conference registration for one representative
- A link on the event website
- Recognition in the March News & Notes and in the digital program

*ADD-ONS AVAILABLE:*

- Additional 6-ft table in the Exhibit Hall – \$500
- Registration for additional representatives – \$275

**FOLLOW THIS LINK TO REGISTER TODAY!**

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/register/event/74957?preview=false>

**DO YOU REPRESENT A NON-PROFIT?**

Reach out to Kelsey for discounted exhibitor rates at [exhibits@scandinavianstudy.org](mailto:exhibits@scandinavianstudy.org)



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SWEDISH-AMERICAN  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Society for the  
Advancement of  
Scandinavian Study  
Book Table



Sustaining  
**SCANDINAVIAN  
FOLK ARTS**  
in the Upper Midwest



**AMERICAN-  
SCANDINAVIAN  
FOUNDATION**

## **HEADSHOT PHOTO BOOTH**

Sponsored by SASS

Upgrade your professional profile with a free, high-quality headshot

Available:

Saturday during coffee breaks, lunch, and between the final session and the banquet

Location:

Exhibit Hall (Navy Yard/Dumbo)

No sign-up required—just stop by!





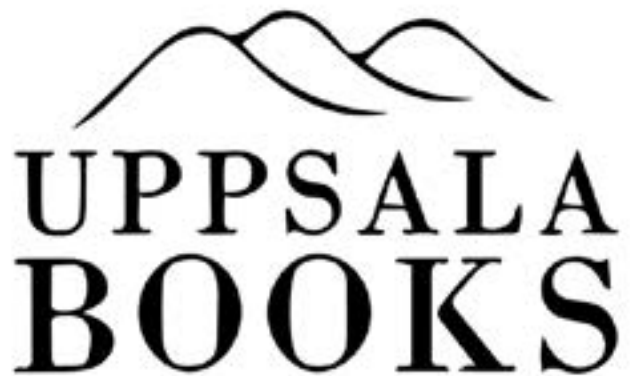
SWEDISH~AMERICAN  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



UNIVERSITY OF  
WASHINGTON PRESS



YEARS OF PUBLISHING



ARC HUMANITIES PRESS

**NORD  
ACADEMIC**  
A PART OF GAD PUBLISHERS

**ROUTLEDGE**  **Routledge**  
Taylor & Francis Group



Forlaget Bostrup.dk  
Bøisk sprog og litteratur



Penguin  
Random  
House



**Northwestern  
University Press**

# S P O N S O R S



*Advancing Danish-American Relations*



**SONS of  
NORWAY  
FOUNDATION**

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1966-2026



SWEDISH~AMERICAN  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**AMERICAN-  
SCANDINAVIAN  
FOUNDATION**



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A CHARITABLE FUND OF  
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## GETTING AROUND NEW YORK

New York City has an extensive public transit system, making it easy to get almost anywhere by subway or bus. Taxis and ride-share services are also widely available.

**Airports:** The New York area is served by JFK, LaGuardia, and Newark. We recommend flying into JFK or LaGuardia, which are closest to the conference hotel and easiest to reach by public transit, taxi, or ride-share.

**Airport to hotel:** Public transit from JFK is generally the easiest, with LaGuardia also accessible (though it may take longer). Travel from Newark typically requires multiple transfers and significantly more time - it is not recommended.

**Scandinavia House:** Travel between the hotel and Scandinavia House is a single subway or bus ride with a short walk at each end. SASS volunteers will be available to assist if needed. The Morgan Library is just around the corner.

**Brooklyn:** Brooklyn is very walkable, with downtown Brooklyn about a 10-minute walk north of the hotel and many nearby coffee shops and restaurants. Willoughby Street is less pleasant after dark, so evening outings are best headed north.

**Apps and Payment Methods:** Locals often recommend Citymapper for navigating transit. NYC Transit accepts credit/debit cards and tap-to-pay on smartphones; MetroCards are no longer used.

### For more info, visit:

New York City Public Transit

<https://www.mta.info/agency/new-york-city-transit>

CityMapper Website and App:

<https://citymapper.com>

# SPONSORS



**GOLD: \$7,500**

**SILVER: \$5,000**

**BRONZE: \$2,500**

- Recognition in News & Notes
- Your web link on the conference site
- Listing w/web link in digital program
- One (1) complimentary tote bag insert
- Two (2) complimentary registrations
- Exhibit Table: One (1) 6-ft table
- Recognition on conference signage
- Recognition in pre-conference emails



## ACTIVITY SPONSORSHIP

Sponsoring an activity includes recognition of your organization on conference signage and in promotional materials, along with the associated benefits listed above.

- **\$7,500:** Wi-Fi Sponsorship (*Exclusive*)
- **\$5,000:** Coffee Break Sponsorship
- **\$2,500:** Graduate Student Mixer (*Exclusive*)
- **\$100:** Tote bag insert

*Exclusive activities have only one sponsor*

## INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING SASS 2026: BROOKLYN?

Individuals, organizations, and corporations interested in supporting SASS through sponsorship of SASS 2026: Brooklyn should reach out to Kimberly at [exec-director@scandinavianstudy.org](mailto:exec-director@scandinavianstudy.org) to discuss how you can support current research in the field, expand access to Nordic language study, and empower the next generation of scholars.





# BROOKLYN

## SASS 26

The schedule of events included in this issue of News & Notes is current as of the date of publication, but as we all know, changes happen. For the most up-to-date schedule, please visit: <https://virtual.oxfordabstracts.com/event/74957/program>

In keeping with SASS policy to minimize waste, printed schedules will not be included in registration packets. If you prefer to have a physical copy, you are welcome to print this issue of *News & Notes* in advance. Please note that once this document is published, we are unable to make updates to it.

A black-and-white, image-free version of the schedule is also available at the following link:  
[INSERT LINK HERE!](#)

For more information about streams, exhibits, and future events, visit:  
<https://scandinavianstudy.org/annual-meeting/sass-2026-brooklyn/>

SCANDINAVIA HOUSE  
VOLVO HALL  
10:00am-4:00pm  
58 PARK AVENUE

## **BUILDING CAREERS BEYOND THE ACADEMY: A PRE-CONFERENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENT**

Graduate students and early career scholars are invited to arrive a day early for a pre-conference professional development event at Scandinavia House. Hear from industry professionals and SASS members who have built fulfilling careers beyond the traditional tenure-track path. Discover how the skills developed through graduate training can open doors to a wide range of professional opportunities inside and outside academia.

For more details, see [page 14](#).

MORGAN LIBRARY  
10:00am-11:00am  
225 MADISON AVENUE

## **TOUR THE MORGAN LIBRARY WITH SASS**

Join SASS Executive Council Member Troy Wellington Smith and other SASS members on a private visit to the Morgan Library. SASS attendees will be given a preview of the Morgan's upcoming exhibit on Johan Tobias Sergel as well as a special look at their collection of Norwegian and Danish Golden Age art. Space will be limited to 25 attendees.

For more details, see [page 15](#).

SCANDINAVIA HOUSE  
VICTOR BORGE HALL  
6:00pm-7:30pm  
58 PARK AVENUE

## **KEYNOTE LECTURE**

Dr. Monica Miller (Barnard College) will present this year's keynote lecture, "**No Flags in Your Pocket: AfroScandinavian Art and Rhizomatic Blackness.**" Extending Ethelene Whitmire's work on African American artists in Scandinavia, Miller places their artistic production in dialogue with contemporary AfroScandinavian artists to explore the evolving dynamics of race, racialization, and Black identity, proposing the concept of "rhizomatic Blackness" as a way of understanding AfroScandinavian identity formation within—and alongside—the broader Black diaspora.

For more details, see [page 16](#).

SCANDINAVIA HOUSE  
VOLVO HALL  
7:30pm-9:00pm  
58 PARK AVENUE

## **OPENING RECEPTION**

### **SPONSORED BY ASF**

Join us for the opening reception at Scandinavia House as we kick off SASS 2026 with an evening of conversation, refreshments, and community. Reconnect with colleagues, meet new friends, and celebrate the start of the conference in one of New York City's premier Nordic cultural venues.

GREENPOINT/  
WILLIAMSBURG

8:30am-10:00am

## SAHS SPONSORED PANEL | State of the Field of Swedish-American Studies

Chair: Saniya Ghanoui (University of Texas at El Paso)

This panel brings together contributors of *Migration, Modernity, and Meaning: Studies of Sweden and America, Essays in Honor of Dag Blanck* to reflect on the evolving scope of Swedish-American scholarship. Opening from the question of what it means to move from “Swedish-American History” to “Swedish-American Studies,” the discussion considers how migration, culture, public history, and interdisciplinary approaches reshape the field today.

BALLROOM A

8:30am-10:00am

## Cultural Diplomacy in Nordic Art and Design

Chair:

- ***Bridges, Connections and Ambivalences in the Lifework of Michael Meschke***  
Theo Malekin (University of Illinois)
- ***Bridge-building with Munch***  
Frode Sandvik (University of Oslo)
- ***Finnish Design and the Long Shadow of the Second World War***  
Erin Dowding (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

BALLROOM B

8:30am-10:00am

## HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN TODAY | Reception, Translation, and Circulation

Chair: Claus Elholm Andersen (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- ***Bridging the North Sea: H.C. Andersen’s “De to baronesser”***  
Susan Brantly (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- ***When Outsiders Become Insiders: Tracing Hans Christian Andersen’s Journey to Anglo-American Cultural Power Centers***  
Julie K Allen (Brigham Young University)
- ***Hans Christian Andersen’s Fairy Tales in English Before and After the Second World War***  
Lise Bostrup (Independent Scholar)

BALLROOM C  
8:30am-10:00am

## ROUNDTABLE | The Baltic Sea Region in a World of Disorder

Chair: Liina-Ly Roos (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

The Baltic Sea has been characterized as a NATO lake. The Roundtable will explore issues related to the military and political security of the states of the region, as well as their social resiliency. Particular attention will be paid to the eastern flank countries (Finland and the Baltic states) that border on Russia.

CARROLL GARDENS  
8:30am-10:00am

## Migration, Diaspora, and Transnational Memory

Chair: Dean Krouk (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- ***Working hard or hardly working?: Della Hottel's Letters from the Danish West Indies, 1892-93***  
Dean J Guarnaschelli (Hofstra University)
- ***The War at Sea. Scandinavian Biographies on War Sailors***  
Unni Langås (University of Agder)
- ***The Remarkable Life of Reed Peggram: The Man Who Stared Down WWII in the Name of Love***  
Ethelene Whitmire (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

PARK SLOPE  
8:30am-10:00am

## Technologies of Language: AI, Translation, and Linguistic Form

Chair: Peter Leonard (Independent Scholar)

- ***Neural Orthographic Normalization Algorithm for Low-Resource Kazym-Khanty***  
Fred Grego Rahuoja (University of Washington)
- ***Tech and Tradition. What Large Language Models Make of Norwegian Folktales and Why We Want to Know***  
Anne Sigrid Refsum (University of Bergen)
- ***"a long shaky bridge of compromise": Tranströmer and Benjamin on Translation, Mediality, and Language's -abilities***  
Brad Harmon (Johns Hopkins University)

## SUNSET PARK

8:30am-10:00am

### Birds and Beasts in Old Norse Culture

Chair: Verena Höfig (Ludvig-Maximilians University, Munich)

- ***The Werewolves of Iceland: Cultural Memory, Lupine Identities, and the Medieval Icelandic World***  
Amber R. Cederström (University of Wisconsin–Madison)
- ***Inferring Animal Emotion through Behaviour in the Íslendingasögur***  
Timothy Bourns (University of Washington)

## FULTON FERRY

8:30am-10:00am

### Nordic Media Ecologies: Industry, Circulation, and Audiences

Chair: Joel Frykholm (Stockholm University)

- ***Swedish Film and TV Productions in Lithuania: Incentivized Mobility and Sustainable Practices in the Nordic–Baltic Screen Regioscape***  
Anna Estera Mrozewicz (Lund University)
- ***Bridge to America: Market, Audience, and Post-Nordic Cinema***  
Andrew K. Nestingen (University of Washington)
- ***Viewer Outcry at the Wailing Wall: The Public’s Responses to Television in Early 1960s Sweden***  
Ulf Jonas Björk (Augustana College)

## PROSPECT PARK

8:30am-10:00am

### Nordic Eco-poetics: Climate, Infrastructure, and Perception

Chair: Andy Meyer (St. Olaf College)

- ***Kristin Berget’s Eco-poetic Modes of Perceiving: An Introduction to “And when the light comes it will be so fantastic”***  
Kathleen Maris Paltrineri (University of Southern California)
- ***A Tunnel to Modernity: Hydropower in Tarjei Vesaas’ Eco-poetics***  
Jenna Coughlin (St. Olaf College)
- ***Sharing Breath, Bridging Time: Air as Medium in Tomas Tranströmer’s Baltics “II”***  
Victoria V. Häggblom (University of California, Berkeley)

## NORTHSIDE FOYER

10:00am-10:30am

## COFFEE BREAK

Coffee breaks will be held throughout the conference and provide a chance to pause, recharge, and connect with colleagues. Join fellow attendees for coffee, tea, and light refreshments while continuing conversations sparked in panels and sessions. Breaks will take place in the Northside Foyer, just outside the Exhibit Hall, making it easy to explore exhibits and meet with publishers and partners during the break.

## NAVY YARD/DUMBO

8:00am-5:00pm

## EXHIBIT HALL

Please take time during the conference to visit the Exhibit Hall, located in the main conference area. The hall features publishers, cultural organizations, research centers, and community partners whose work supports and connects with Scandinavian and Nordic studies. You can browse new books, learn about research resources and archival collections, and discover grants, fellowships, and collaborative opportunities. Many exhibitors will also offer information about their programs as well as special conference discounts on publications. We encourage you to stop by, meet our exhibitors, and thank them for supporting the conference and the broader field of Scandinavian studies.

## COBBLE HILL

8:00am-5:00pm

## QUIET SPACE/STILLHETSROM

A Quiet Space will be available throughout the conference for attendees who need a calm place to step away from the activity of the meeting. This space is intended for rest, reflection, or a brief moment of quiet during a busy conference day. We ask that all who use the room help maintain a peaceful atmosphere by keeping conversations to a minimum. Please be mindful of others who may also be using the space and limit your time if others are waiting. We hope this space helps make the conference more comfortable and accessible for everyone.



GREENPOINT/  
WILLIAMSBURG

10:30am-12:00pm

## ROUNDTABLE | Beyond Borders: Navigating the New Landscape of International Grant Opportunities

Chair: Sally Yerkovich (American Scandinavian Foundation)

This interactive roundtable explores the evolving landscape of international research funding and examines what it takes to craft competitive grant applications in an increasingly global and interdisciplinary landscape. With a focus on grant opportunities that support transnational research, mobility, and collaboration within the Nordic region, this session highlights both established and emerging funding pathways for scholars at various career stages.

BALLROOM A  
10:30am-12:00pm

## BRIDGING THE SWEDISH ATLANTIC | Colonialism, Slavery, and Race

Chair: Åsa Bharathi Larsson (Södertörn University)

- ***Sweden and the Raw Materials of the French Atlantic***  
Armel Cornu (Uppsala University)
- ***Couschi/Badin/X - Swedish Atlantic Entanglements***  
Åsa Bharathi Larsson (Södertörn University)
- ***The Bondage of Womanhood: How US Chattel Slavery Shaped the Racial Politics of Swedish First Wave Feminism***  
Lucia Hodgson (Uppsala University)

BALLROOM B  
10:30am-12:00pm

## HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN TODAY | Aesthetics, Authorship, and the Role of the Author

Chair: Susan Brantly (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- ***The Ugly Duckling in the House of Heiberg: H.C. Andersen and Thomasine Gyllembourg Today***  
Troy Wellington Smith (Independent Scholar)
- ***Feeling Capitalism: Impostor Syndrome in Hans Christian Andersen's Novels***  
Claus Elholm Andersen (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- ***Naive on Purpose: Hans Christian Andersen and the Changing Meanings of the Childlike***  
Torsten B. Thomsen (University of Southern Denmark)

BALLROOM C  
10:30am-12:00pm

## ROUNDTABLE | Oliver Moody, “Baltic: The Future of Europe”

Chair: Olavi Arens (Georgia Southern University)

Oliver Moody has written a book that covers the contemporary Baltic Sea region in a rapidly changing international order. He places the region at the center of a confrontation between Russia and the West. Moody argues that at present the conflict is carried out at “every conceivable level below direct military confrontation.” Yet, the possibility of an actual military conflict cannot be dismissed.

CARROLL GARDENS  
10:30am-12:00pm

## Naming and Remembering Scandinavian Colonial and Migrant Landscapes

Chair: Maxine Savage (University of British Columbia)

- ***Seaglass and Street Names: Materializing the Norwegian-Danish Colonial Legacy in the U.S. Virgin Islands***  
Kari Lie Dorer (St. Olaf College)
- ***Swedish and Finnish Place Names and Linguistic Landscapes/ Namescapes in North America***  
Anu Muhonen (University of Helsinki)
- ***Global Shared Legacies: Scandinavian-American Mission Architecture and Memory Straddles in Inner Mongolia and the Central China***  
Dongning Zhang (Fudan University)

PARK SLOPE  
10:30am-12:00pm

## AI and the Computational Turn in Nordic Humanities

Chair: Todd Michelson-Ambelang (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- ***Diffusion Models for Danish Golden Age Aesthetics***  
Peter Leonard (Independent Scholar)
- ***Tasting Scandinavia: A Mixed Methods AI Approach to Scandinavian Flavor Networks***  
Timothy R. Tangherlini (University of California, Berkeley)
- ***Sailing Between Worlds: Pros and Cons of AI-Enhanced Humanities Research in the Maritime Cultures of the Åland Islands***  
Scott A. Mellor (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

SUNSET PARK

10:30am-12:00pm

## The Work of Blood in Premodern Scandinavian Literature

Chair: Carsten P. Haas (Independent Scholar)

- ***Bridging Violence and the Divine: Blood as a Medium in the Clontarf Episode of Njáls saga***  
Lejia Zhang (University of California, Berkeley)
- ***Bridging the Rushing Blood of Morn: A Reevaluation of Microcosm and Macrocosm in Skaldic Verse***  
Joshua Lee (University of California, Berkeley)
- ***Containment and Flow: Blood at the Origins***  
Kate Heslop (University of California, Berkeley)

FULTON FERRY

10:30am-12:00pm

## In Performance: Ibsen, Stringberg, Queerness

Chair: Olivia N. Gunn (University of Washington)

- ***Building a Jewish Dollhouse***  
Yoni Oppenheim (24/6: A Jewish Theater Company)
- ***Strindberg's Nora in Performance: Et dukkehjem × Giftas***  
Robert Greer (Strindberg Rep)
- ***Archiving the Not-Yet-Here: Performing and Interlocuting with the Norwegian Queer Archive***  
Ethan Bjelland Hagberg (University of Washington)

PROSPECT PARK

10:30am-12:00pm

## Arctic Environments in Nordic and Transatlantic Thought

Chair: Jenna Coughlin (St. Olaf College)

- ***The Overwritten North: Wilderness and the Scandinavian Mind***  
Andy Meyer (St. Olaf College)
- ***Untangling Land Ethics, Race, and Culture in the Writing of Polar Researcher Elmer Ekblaw (1882-1949)***  
Mark Safstrom (Augustana College)
- ***Cozy on the Ice: Homes and homemaking on Norwegian Expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic***  
Olivia Larson (University of California, Berkeley)

## ON YOUR OWN

12:00pm-1:30pm

## LUNCH BREAK

Lunch will be on your own during the conference, giving you the opportunity to explore the many restaurants and cafés located near the hotel. The surrounding neighborhood offers a wide variety of options, from quick bites to sit-down meals. If you would like suggestions, a list of nearby restaurants recommended by the hotel is available at the registration desk. Our volunteers will also be happy to help point you in the right direction.

## NAVY YARD/DUMBO

8:00am-5:00pm

## EXHIBIT HALL

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## COBBLE HILL

8:00am-5:00pm

## QUIET SPACE/STILLHETSROM

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GREENPOINT/  
WILLIAMSBURG

1:30pm-3:00pm

## ROUNDTABLE | *AfroNordic Feminisms: A Special Issue of Scandinavian Studies*

Chair: Monica Miller (Barnard College)

This roundtable brings together the editors and contributors to the forthcoming special issue of *Scandinavian Studies* to reflect on what it means to theorize, articulate, and practice Black/Afrofeminism from a distinctly Nordic standpoint. Edited by Jasmine Kelekay and Benjamin Mier-Cruz, the special issue brings together scholars from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and the United States working across disciplines.

BALLROOM A

1:30pm-3:00pm

## BRIDGING THE SWEDISH ATLANTIC | *Migration, Identity and Transatlantic Exchange*

Chair: Erik Thosteman (Uppsala University)

- ***A Swedish-American Race? Re-examining the Question of Swedish-American Identity Formation***  
Erik Thosteman (Uppsala University)
- ***Female Return Migrants and the Swedish Atlantic***  
Marie Bennedahl Weber (Linnaeus University)
- ***Mrs. Ericsson Hammond's Swedish-French-American Cooking School: Immigrant Cookbooks, Culinary Education, and Commercial Domesticity in New York City, 1890s-1940s***  
Svea Larson (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

BALLROOM B

1:30pm-3:00pm

## HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN TODAY | *Technology and Modernity*

Chair: Julie Allen (Brigham Young University)

- ***Fairy Tales In and Beyond the Age of Steam: Andersen's Speculative Vision and Technological Anxiety***  
Erica (Yiqin) Li (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- ***Bridging Cultures with Technology? "The Great Sea Serpent" (1871) as Cable Literature***  
Ane Grum-Schwensen (University of Southern Denmark)Lise Bostrup (Independent Scholar)

## BALLROOM C

1:30pm-3:00pm

### **PEDAGOGICAL BRIDGES | Hands-on Learning and Skill Sharing across the Curriculum**

Chair: Ida Johnson (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Colleagues in Nordic and Folklore Studies who use hands-on learning pedagogy and “skill shares” to construct bridges between embodied and abstract learning and between different courses in their department will present example workshop exercises and projects, and detail “skill-share” visits, wherein instructors develop hands-on lessons that serve the learning objectives of multiple courses. Skill-share visits allow instructors to teach hands-on workshops in other instructors’ courses, thereby introducing students to multiple instructors within the department in engaging ways, and demonstrating how courses relate to one another.

## CARROLL GARDENS

1:30pm-3:00pm

### **Borderlands, Language, and Identity in the Nordic North**

Chair: Andrew K. Nestingen (University of Washington)

- ***Monologic Maps, Dialogic Borders: Bakhtinian Chronotopes and the Cartography of Finland***  
Richard Byington (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)
- ***The “Finlandization” of a Soviet Territory: Nation, Language, and Geopolitics in the Soviet-Finnish Borderlands***  
Diego Benning Wang (Harvard University)
- ***Köngäs, Geavņjis or Kengis? Arctic Fennoscandian Multilingualism in Mikael Niemi’s “To Cook a Bear”***  
Nicholas Borbely (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

## PARK SLOPE

1:30pm-3:00pm

### **Medics and Maladies in Scandinavian History and Culture**

Chair: Jason Lavery (Oklahoma State University)

- ***Assembling the Archive: Proxies, Prosthesis, and the Plague***  
Drew Swasey (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- ***Confused in Translation: The Queen, the Physician, and the Garbling of Medical Knowledge in Sixteenth Century Sweden***  
Joseph M Gonzalez (California State University, Fullerton)
- ***In Sickness and in Sickness and in Sickness: Bridging Friendships in Psychiatric Novels from the Nineteenth and the Twenty-First Century***  
Kirstine N. Degn (University of Copenhagen)

## SUNSET PARK

1:30pm-3:00pm

### Gender and Alterity in Old Norse Literature

Chair: Joshua Lee (University of California, Berkeley)

- ***Thor in Drag? Realness, Violence, and the Elusive Feminine in “Þrymskviða”***  
Merrill Kaplan (The Ohio State University)
- ***The Boundary of Clothing and Identity in Old Norse-Icelandic Literature***  
Benjamin S. Wilson (University of Wisconsin–Madison)
- ***Beyond the Miraculous: Neurodivergent Readings of Old Norse Saints’ Lives***  
Natalie Van Deusen (University of Alberta)

## FULTON FERRY

1:30pm-3:00pm

### Ethics and Social Crisis in Nordic Literature

Chair: Amanda Doxtater (University of Washington)

- ***Moral Injury in Ibsen’s “Rosmersholm”***  
Dean Krouk (University of Wisconsin–Madison)
- ***Movement, Migration, and Mormons: An Ethics of Open-mindedness as Literary Experiment in Halldór Laxness’ “Paradísarheimt”***  
Natalya Nielsen (University of California, Berkeley)
- ***Ambivalence as the Narrative and Ethical Force in Lars Johansson’s Signe Trilogy***  
Alexander Kofod-Jensen (University of Agder)

## PROSPECT PARK

1:30pm-3:00pm

### Traveling the Nordic Landscape: Tourism and National Imaginaries

Chair: Scott Mellor (University of Wisconsin)

- ***Remote Destinations: Silent Cinema and the Birth of Ecotourism***  
Ben Bigelow (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities)
- ***“Sweden’s Blue Ribbon”: The Göta Canal as Nationalist Infrastructure***  
Johan Klingborg (University of California, Berkeley)
- ***Dollarfåget: American Tourism by Rail in Sweden 1950-1969***  
Dag Blanck (Uppsala University)

## NORTHSIDE FOYER

3:00pm-3:30pm

## COFFEE BREAK

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ASTRA Fika - ASTRA members meet in the Ballroom Foyer

## NAVY YARD/DUMBO

8:00am-5:00pm

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## COBBLE HILL

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GREENPOINT/  
WILLIAMSBURG

3:30pm-5:00pm

## MUSICAL BRIDGES | Sound, Performance, and Cultural Connections

CHAIR: Colin Levin (Long Island University)

- ***“Abow, vad du är skön”:* Features of Scandinavian Rap Music**  
Caroline G. Brekkan (University of Washington)
- ***Danish Immigrants, Transnational Existence, and the Århus Rap Academy***  
Leslie C. Gay, Jr. (University of Tennessee)
- ***An Examination of Environmental Factors Leading to Danish Contributions to the 20th-Century Solo Trombone Catalog***  
Kevin A. Virgilio

BALLROOM A

3:30pm-5:00pm

## BRIDGING THE SWEDISH ATLANTIC | Photographic Bridges to Swedish-American Life

CHAIR:

- ***“Weekend Photographer:” Swedish American Immigrant Life in and Around the Quad Cities (1890-1920)***  
Jennifer Watson (Marquette University)
- ***Swedish-American Life Documented in Glass Plate Negatives: An Archivist’s Perspective***  
Janette D. Foss Garcia (Augustana College)
- ***The Paulson Family Collection: Documenting Rural and Urban Life in Texas, Iowa and Minnesota, 1894 to 1917***  
Betty S. Ison

**BALLROOM B**  
**3:30pm-5:00pm**

## **HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN TODAY | Ethics and Ecology in Time**

Chair: Torsten Bøgh Thmsen (University of Southern Denmark)

- ***From Fall to Grace: Little Karen, Little Inger and Andersen's Reworking of Cautionary Tales***  
 Holger Berg (University of Southern Denmark)
- ***Uncanny Environments: Ecocriticism and H. C. Andersen's "The Snow Queen"***  
 Berit Skogen (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- ***Lessons from the 19th Century: H. C. Andersen's Tales and Their Galloping Relevance***  
 Gergana May (Indiana University)

**BALLROOM C**  
**3:30pm-5:00pm**

## **PEDOGOGICAL BRIDGES | Building Bridges to Foster Student Success**

Chair: Maren Mecham (Brigham Young University)

- ***Examining Academic Buoyancy: Fostering Buoyancy and Success in the World Language Classroom***  
 Evalyn A.S. Galstad (Luther College)
- ***Against the Slog: Making Meaning Across Instructional Units***  
 Ida M. Johnson (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- ***Teaching Digital Information Literacy in Humanities Courses***  
 Melissa Gjellstad (University of North Dakota)

## CARROLL GARDENS

3:30pm-5:00pm

### Camara Lundestad Joof: Positionality, Pedagogy, Performance

Chair: Jasmine Kelekay (Howard University)

- ***Post-White Pedagogy? Quitting and World-building in Camara Lundestad Joof's Plays for Nationaltheatret***  
Olivia N. Gunn (University of Washington)
- ***Reimagining the Norwegian-American Idea of Race in Scandinavia***  
Maren A. Johnson (Luther College)
- ***Unstable Categories: Afro-Norwegian Racial Identification and the Social Meanings of Blackness***  
Ariana R. Collazo (UMass Amherst)

## PARK SLOPE

3:30pm-5:00pm

### Textiles and Scandinavian Design Modernity

Chair: Erin Dowding (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- ***Estrid Ericson and Svenskt Tenn: Values and Aesthetics Beyond Modernism***  
Eliza Johanna Gray (Brigham Young University)
- ***Imported from Marblehead—not Finland: Transatlantic Textile Design in the 20th Century***  
Maddy Underwood (University of Georgia)
- ***No Flowers for Sampe: Concrete Curtains and the Signed Textile Exhibition***  
Mark Mussari (University of Washington)

## SUNSET PARK

3:30pm-5:00pm

### Writing, Memory, and Origins in the Medieval North

Chair: Natalie Van Deusen (University of Alberta)

- ***Forgetting as Foundation: Collective Trauma and the Landnám in Medieval Icelandic Texts***  
Verena J Höfig (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich)
- ***Runes on Textual Amulets: Writing as a Bridge Between the Bearer and the Divine***  
Julia-Sophie Heier (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich)
- ***I Am a Raven. What Am I?: Skaldic Kennings as Inverted Riddles***  
Carsten P. Haas (Independent Scholar)

FULTON FERRY  
3:30pm-5:00pm

## Nordic Avant-Garde and Experimental Literature

Chair: Susan Brantly (University of Wisconsin)

- ***Re-reading the 1930s in a Contemporary Context – Republications of Literary Works Connected to the Danish Avant-Garde of the Interwar Period***  
Marianne Oelholm (Independent Scholar)
- ***Lotta Lotass and the Avant-Garde***  
Ulf Olsson (Stockholm University)

PROSPECT PARK  
3:30pm-5:00pm

## Literature, Labor, and Late Capitalist Futures

CHAIR: Johan Klingborg (University of California, Berkeley)

- ***Into the Image: Lars Jakobson and the Aesthetics of Immediacy***  
Love Carlshamre (University of California, Berkeley)
- ***Lost Futures: Dystopian Labor in Contemporary Danish Literature***  
Morten Larsen (University of Washington)
- ***Avenging the Revenge Novel: The Sparring Books of Vigdis and Helga Hjorth***  
Madeline K. Zimring (University of California, Berkeley)

GREENPOINT/WILLIAMSBURG

8:30am-10:00am

## SASS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

All SASS members are *strongly encouraged* to attend the Annual Business Meeting. Join us for updates on the organization's initiatives, finances, elections, and future conference plans. This is an opportunity to learn more about SASS governance, ask questions, and participate in shaping the direction of the society. We look forward to your participation.

### DRAFT AGENDA

- Welcome (Olivia N. Gunn)
- Approval of Minutes (Natalie Van Deusen)
- In Memoriam (Olivia N. Gunn)
- Journal Status Report (Dean Krouk)
- Financial Report (Kimberly La Palm)
- Presidents Report (Olivia N. Gunn)
- Executive Council Updates (Natalie Van Deusen)
- Upcoming Conferences (Kimberly La Palm)
- Awards and Fellowships
- New Business From the Floor

## NORTHSIDE FOYER

10:00am-10:30am

## COFFEE BREAK

Coffee breaks will be held throughout the conference and provide a chance to pause, recharge, and connect with colleagues. Join fellow attendees for coffee, tea, and light refreshments while continuing conversations sparked in panels and sessions. Breaks will take place in the Northside Foyer, just outside the Exhibit Hall, making it easy to explore exhibits and meet with publishers and partners during the break.

## NAVY YARD/DUMBO

8:00am-5:00pm

## EXHIBIT HALL

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## COBBLE HILL

8:00am-5:00pm

## QUIET SPACE/STILLHETSROM

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GREENPOINT/  
WILLIAMSBURG

10:30am-12:00pm

## BOOK TALK | *THE PAGANESQUE AND THE TALE OF VQLSI*

Chair: Timothy Bourns (University of Washington)

Join Dr. Timothy Bourns (University of Washington) in conversation with Merrill Kaplan (The Ohio State University) about her new book, *The Paganesque and the Tale of Volsi*. In this provocative study, Kaplan reexamines one of the most infamous stories in Old Norse literature—the tale of a pagan family who ritually worship a preserved horse penis before the arrival of King Olaf the Saint—revealing it as a far more sophisticated exploration than previously assumed.

BALLROOM A

10:30am-12:00pm

## BRIDGING THE SWEDISH ATLANTIC | Swedish-American Heritages

Chair: Saniya Ghanoui (University of Texas at El Paso)

- ***Becoming Settler Colonists: Two Swedish Brothers and their Divergent Paths in Colonial America***  
Linda H. Rugg (University of California Berkeley)
- ***Christianity as a Facet of Swedish-American Heritage Fiction***  
Jennifer E Attebery (Idaho State University)
- ***A Saab-Story: The Influence of Swedish Cars in the US***  
Saniya Ghanoui (University of Texas at El Paso)

BALLROOM B

10:30am-12:00pm

## Curating Nordic Heritage: Museums, Exhibitions, and Public Culture

CHAIR: Jeffrey Sundquist (Monterey Peninsula College)

- ***2 Exhibits: Reflections of New Sweden AND Glimma I Mörkret, Designed by Professor Juliet Wunsch, West Chester University, Spring '26***  
Juliet Wunsch (West Chester University)
- ***Vikingmania! Using Museum Design to Bridge Scholarly and Public Reception of the Vikings***  
Adam Bierstedt (Museum of Danish America)
- ***Managing the Future: The Corporate Infrastructure of Katie Paterson's Future Library***  
Nate Kramer (Brigham Young University)

BALLROOM C  
10:30am-12:00pm

## PEDOGOGICAL BRIDGES | Building Bridges through Materials and Language Instruction

Chair: Anna Rue (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- ***Strengthening the Bridge of Intelligibility: A Synchronic Look at English and Norwegian Vowels***  
Maren E Mecham (Brigham Young University)
- ***Shades of 'Authenticity': The Quest for Materials in a LCTL Classroom***  
Lily Obeda (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)
- ***Akkta, guäkkte, gålbmå: First Steps in Bringing the Pitesami Language to English Heritage Speakers***  
Amy E King (University of Washington)

CARROLL GARDENS  
10:30am-12:00pm

## Migration, Movement, and Memory

Chair: Maxine Savage (University of British Columbia)

- ***Reconnecting Migrant Memory: Colonial Amnesia and Laura Goodman Salverson's Confessions of an Immigrant's Daughter***  
Sydney Lines (University of British Columbia)
- ***Norwegian-American Heritage and Humanities Engagement in the Red River Valley of the North***  
Rosemary Erickson Johnsen (University of Minnesota, Crookston)
- ***Travel, Home, and Sápmi in the Works of Jalvvi Niillas Holmberg***  
John Prusynski (University of California, Berkeley)

PARK SLOPE  
10:30pm-12:00pm

## Women, Voice, and Feminist Critique in Nordic Culture

CHAIR:

- ***Viewing Women's Landscapes through an Activist Lens***  
Alice R. Price (Temple University)
- ***"Jeg holder skam kæft med meget:" Tove Ditlevsen and the Abortion Narrative***  
Marianne Stecher-Hansen (University of Washington)

SUNSET PARK  
10:30am-12:00pm

## Movement and Belonging in Contemporary Nordic Culture

Chair: Brad Harmon (Johns Hopkins University)

- ***Skeptimental Sensibility: Mistrusting Sentimental Spectatorship***  
Devika Sharma (University of Copenhagen)
- ***Screening Migration and Chronic Pain in Gabriela Pichler's "Painkiller" (2024)***  
Liina-Ly Roos (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- ***The Art World and Swedish Cinema Today: Bridges and Boundaries***  
Joel Frykholm (Stockholm University)

## OFFSITE

12:00pm-1:30pm

## LUNCH BREAK

Lunch will be on your own during the conference, giving you the opportunity to explore the many restaurants and cafés located near the hotel. The surrounding neighborhood offers a wide variety of options, from quick bites to sit-down meals. If you would like suggestions, a list of nearby restaurants recommended by the hotel is available at the registration desk. Our volunteers will also be happy to help point you in the right direction.

## NAVY YARD/DUMBO

8:00am-5:00pm

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GREENPOINT/  
WILLIAMSBURG

1:30pm-3:00pm

## **ROUNDTABLE | Advancing Runic Studies: Exploring Partnerships, Discoveries, and Future Directions in Runology**

CHAIR: Loraine Jensen (American Assn for Runic Studies)

This round table on runic studies will highlight the dynamic partnerships shaping the future of runology. Central to this discussion is the collaboration between the American Association for Runic Studies (AARS) and Uppsala University, which has fostered a vibrant exchange of ideas and resources. In following with the conference theme, this dynamic partnership has helped build bridges and connections to a global network of runologists, archaeologists, historians, museum professionals, and others, all working together to deepen our understanding of runic inscriptions and their cultural contexts. the United States working across disciplines.

BALLROOM A  
1:30pm-3:00pm

## **BRIDGING THE SWEDISH ATLANTIC | The Influence of the Swedish Welfare State**

CHAIR: Svea Larson (University of Wisconsin)

- ***Svenska Arkitekter i USA 1846-1930***  
Jay Lutz (Oglethorpe University)
- ***Subversion of the War Machine: Swedish American IWW and Socialist Newspapers during WWI***  
B. Marcus Cederstrom (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

BALLROOM B  
1:30pm-3:00pm

## ROUNDTABLE | **Out of the Darkness: An Anthology of Swedish Short Fiction**

CHAIR: Linda H. Rugg (University of California, Berkeley)

In May 2026, the University of Minnesota Press will publish the anthology *Out of the Darkness: Classic Short Fiction From Sweden*. Focusing the period from 1880 to the 1950's, the anthology includes authors ranging from August Strindberg to Karin Boye and Stig Dagerman. At this round table, the editors behind the volume – writer Vendela Vida, music producer David Katznelson, and professor emeritus Ulf Olsson – will introduce the anthology and discuss the work of editing such a selection of stories.

BALLROOM C  
1:30pm-3:00pm

## PEDOGOGICAL BRIDGES | **Building Bridges Within and Across Institutions**

Chair: Melissa Gjellstad (University of North Dakota)

- **Connecting Danish Language Students Across North America**  
Sofie M. Hansen (University of California, Berkeley)
- **Norwegian-American Student Projects as a Case Study for Campus Bridge Building**  
Sarah Clement Reed (Brigham Young University)
- **Exploring Norwegian and American Gender Differences and Similarities in Performative Skills in the Simulation Pedagogy *Reacting to the Past***  
Erik Mustad (University of Agder) and Maren Johnson (Luther College)

## CARROLL GARDENS

1:30pm-3:00pm

### Arctic Colonialism: Environment, Infrastructure, and Representation

Chair:

- **Green Leaves, Greenhouses, Greenland: The Colonial Danish Garden in 20th Century Kalaallit Nunaat**  
Maxine Savage (University of British Columbia)
- **Colonial Control, Arctic Exposure, and Productive Psychic Breakdown in Erik Skjoldbjærg's "Insomnia" (1997)**  
Robinson Murphy (Hobart and William Smith Colleges)
- **From Balconies to Bridges: The Concrete Afterlives of Welfare Colonial Infrastructures and the Potentials for Material Reuse in Greenland**  
Frederik Braüner (University of California, Berkeley)

## PARK SLOPE

1:30pm-3:00pm

### Form, Aesthetics, and Literary Mediation

Chair: Troy Wellington Smith (Independent Scholar)

- **Bridging Temporal Scales: Deep Time in Danish Literature**  
Anders E. Dam (Europa-Universität Flensburg)
- **Flags on Characters: How Knut Hamsun Used Colors to Relay Information about Characters in *Mysterier*, *Pan*, and *Victoria***  
Todd Michelson-Ambelang (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- **The Young Translator Tries His Hand at a Hauge Sonnet**  
Jordan Barger (Independent Scholar)

## SUNSET PARK

1:30pm-3:00pm

### Religion and Reform in the Nordic World

Chair: Joseph Gonzalez (California State University, Fullerton)

- **The Admiral as Theologian: Klaus Fleming and Finland's Reformation**  
Jason E. Lavery (Oklahoma State University)
- **Miraculously Married Priests in Medieval Iceland**  
Joel D. Anderson (University of Maine)
- **The Great Contradiction: Scandinavian Pietists as Romantics**  
David Jessup (Gustavus Adolphus College)

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GREENPOINT/  
WILLIAMSBURG

3:30pm-5:00pm

## ROUNDTABLE | Mary Kay Norseng: Scholarship, Friendship, Mentorship

Chair: Olivia Noble Gunn (University of Washington)

This roundtable honors Dr. Mary Kay Norseng (1943-2025), Professor Emerita in the Scandinavian Section at UCLA. In five short presentations followed by discussion, we will address Professor Norseng's scholarship and her impact on our lives, careers, and research. Featuring talks by Pål Bjørby (University of Bergen), Joan Templeton (Long Island University), Joe Gonzalez (California State University, Fullerton), Alina Romo (Allan Hancock College), and Olivia Noble Gunn (University of Washington)

BALLROOM A

3:30pm-5:00pm

## NORDIC ORIENTALISM 20 YEARS LATER | The Contemporary Debates

Chair: Pat Berman (Wellesley College)

- ***The Danish Underglaze Porcelain Designs Inspired by Chinese Literati Paintings from Late 19th to the Early 20th Century***  
Xiao Xiao (East China Normal University)
- ***Reorienting Edward Said for Scandinavian Studies***  
William A Johnsen (Michigan State University)
- ***A Missing Chapter: How the "Orient" Was Imagined by Norwegian Artists***  
Øystein Sjøstad (University of Oslo)

BALLROOM C  
3:30pm-5:00pm

## PEDOGOGICAL BRIDGES | Building Bridges through Multilingualism

Chair: Marcus Cederström (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- **Multilingualism and Schoolscapes in Finnmark, Northern Norway**  
Gro-Renée Ramboe (The University of Agder)
- **Finnish-Swedish-English Code-Switching in Multilingual WhatsApp Conversations**  
Heidi Mustisto (University of Washington)
- **Social meanings and language ideologies related to mixing Finnish and English**  
Alma Sofi Loviisa Komulainen (University of Helsinki)

CARROLL GARDENS  
3:30pm-5:00pm

## Imagining the Nation in Nordic Literature and Culture

Chair: Rosemary Erickson Johnsen (University of Minnesota, Crookston)

- **Wings of Change: The Mute Swan's Role in Transforming Danish National Identity**  
Lilil Hansen (Independent Scholar)
- **First Novels of the Far North: Bábelstornið and Sinnattugac**  
Leyvoy Joensen (Independent Scholar)

PARK SLOPE  
3:30pm-5:00pm

## Texts, Ideas, Identities of Nordic American Childhood and Youth

Chair: Carrie Danielson (Florida State University)

- **Purveyor and Preservers: Bridging Ideas of Ethnic Superiority Among Norwegians and Norwegian-American Women and Children**  
Caitlin Sackrison and Otelia Lighthill (St. Olaf College)
- **"Peer Gynt" for Children: Preserving Henrik Ibsen's Value for Norwegian Children**  
Lianna Torres (University of Washington)
- **Visions of Norway in Dorothy Canfield Fisher's "Gunhild"**  
Rennesa Jessup (Minnesota State University)

SUNSET PARK  
3:30pm-5:00pm

## Reimagining Nordic Folklore in Contemporary Media and Literature

Chair: Jason Schroeder (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- ***A Tale of Three Bridges: Metaphors in Morality between Medieval Literature and Tolkien's Middle-earth***  
Kelsey A. Fuller-Shafer (Fairfield University)
- ***Swedish Folklore and Survival Horror: Ludic Horror Adaptation of Näcken legends in "Unforgiving: A Northern Hymn"***  
Rachel Bott (University of Wisconsin)
- ***Claiming (Queer) Nordic Identity through Science Fantasy***  
Brian L Attebery (Idaho State University)

THE UNITED STATES PREMIERE

# The Complete Art Songs of Jórunn Viðar



Jórunn Viðar (1918-2017)

8:30-10:00PM GREENPOINT | WILLIAMSBURG

THIS PERFORMANCE IS MADE POSSIBLE BY A GENEROUS GRANT FROM  
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PIANO

