

THE OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF THE

Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study

News & Notes

VOLUME 74 | OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2026



IN THIS ISSUE

Looking ahead to San Francisco

The 2027 call, seven thematic streams,
and hotel and travel information.

PLUS

Award recipients
November book talk
New publications
Calls and opportunities



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VOLUME 74 | OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2026



Stay connected

scandinavianstudy.org

newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org

News & Notes welcomes announcements, publications, and opportunities of interest to the SASS community.

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Please notify SASS of corrections or updates. Information and links are current at the time of preparation.

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Message from the Executive Director

Kimberly La Palm



Dear SASS colleagues,

I hope your fall is going well and that you can find a little time in a busy season to catch up on what's happening around SASS.

There is plenty to share in this issue! Please join me in congratulating our 2026 Louis Janus Book Subvention recipients, Benjamin Mier-Cruz, Jay L. Lalonde, and David M. Smith. You'll also find new books for your reading list, funding opportunities, and calls for award nominations and student submissions. I hope you'll take a look and pass along anything that might interest your colleagues or students.

I'm looking forward to the latest installment in the SASS Book Talk series! Join us online on November 9 for a conversation with translator Rachel Willson-Broyles. We're also co-sponsoring an online symposium with the Swenson Swedish American Research Center on October 23. Check out page 9 for more information about "Two Countries, Two Elections: Democracy, Policy, and the Road Ahead," along with a link to register.

Conference planning is in full swing for SASS 2027: San Francisco! Check out the call for papers and this year's thematic streams on pages 10–17. You can even get a head start on planning your trip: SASS has partnered with Southwest Airlines, Air Canada, and Lufthansa to offer discounted flights to San Francisco. You'll find travel details and a link to reserve your room at the conference hotel on page 18.

In 2027, we'll return to the Hilton San Francisco Financial District, where we had record attendance at our 2013 conference. We're hoping to set a new record in 2027—and we hope you'll be part of it!

This issue also includes a remembrance of Frank Hugus. We will miss him, and we are grateful for all he contributed to our field and our community.

Thank you for the many ways you keep SASS going—by sharing your work, volunteering your time, encouraging students, and staying connected. It's a pleasure to work with you, and I look forward to seeing you online this fall and in San Francisco in the spring.

Warmly,



Kimberly La Palm

Executive Director

Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study

Welcome to the Executive Council

Please join us in welcoming our newest representatives. We look forward to the perspectives and experience they bring to the SASS community.



Merrill Kaplan

The Ohio State University

Language and Literature Representative

Term: 2026-2030



Christine Ekholst

Uppsala University

**History and Social Science
Representative**

Term: 2026-2030



Benjamin Wilson

University of
Wisconsin-Madison

Graduate Student Representative

Term: 2026-2027



Joshua Lee

University of California,
Berkeley

Graduate Student Representative

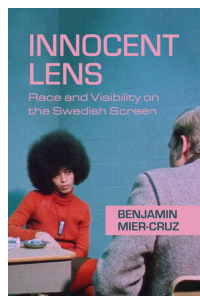
Term: 2026-2028

Thank you for serving our community!

2026 Louis Janus Book Subvention Awards

Congratulations to the 2026 Louis Janus Book Subvention Recipients

SASS congratulates Benjamin Mier-Cruz, Jay L. Lalonde, and David M. Smith.



Benjamin Mier-Cruz

Innocent Lens: Race and Visibility on the Swedish Screen

Comparing two eras of Swedish documentary filmmaking, Mier-Cruz examines how filmmakers have reinforced and challenged Sweden's image of racial innocence.

[Order from UW Press](#) | Forthcoming February 2027



Jay L. Lalonde

The Death of Kjartan Ólafsson

By Júlíana Jónsdóttir | Translated by Jay L. Lalonde

The first English translation of Iceland's first known play written and staged by a woman pairs the drama with its original Icelandic text and a critical introduction.

[Order from UW Press](#) | Forthcoming May 2027

David M. Smith

Translation of Anne Ellingsen's *Odd Nansen: Arvtageren*

Smith's award supports an English translation of Anne Ellingsen's biography of Odd Nansen, forthcoming from the University of Wisconsin Press.

Cover image and publisher ordering details forthcoming.

Louis Janus Book Subvention Call for Submissions

UP TO \$3,000

SASS members may apply for publishers' production costs for Nordic studies monographs and eligible English translations. Faculty, independent scholars, and emeritus scholars are eligible.

Annual deadlines: March 1, June 1, and October 1

Next deadline: March 1, 2027

[Eligibility, required materials, and application form](#) | subvention@scandinavianstudy.org

Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Memorial Scholarship

\$7,500

Application deadline: December 1, 2026

The Haugen Scholarship supports doctoral research on Nordic or Nordic-American topics in history and the social sciences, broadly understood. It particularly welcomes projects requiring travel to archives, libraries, and museums, or fieldwork and excavations away from the applicant's home institution.

Who can apply: Ph.D. candidates enrolled in North America who have completed coursework and preliminary requirements before receiving funding. Applicants must hold SASS membership in both the application and funding years.

Prepare: A project description, CV, transcripts, bibliography, budget, and details for two scholarly references. See the application instructions for document requirements.

Questions: haugen@scandinavianstudy.org

[Full eligibility and application instructions](#)

Birgit Baldwin Fellowship in Scandinavian Studies

\$30,000

Application deadline: December 1, 2026

The Baldwin Fellowship supports Ph.D. dissertation research and writing on Nordic literature or film that is best pursued in the Nordic region's archives and libraries. The stipend supports travel and living expenses during one academic year and is paid in two installments.

Who can apply: Doctoral students earning their degrees at North American universities. Applicants must be SASS members in good standing during the application and fellowship years.

Prepare: A dissertation proposal explaining the project's significance, research plans, need to work in the Nordic region, and feasibility, with evidence of relevant language competency and support from two scholars.

[Full eligibility and application instructions](#)

Birgit Baldwin Language Fellowship

UP TO \$9,000

Application deadline: March 4, 2027

This fellowship expands access to Nordic language learning. Eligible applicants include undergraduates whose home institutions do not offer the language they wish to study and prospective Scandinavian studies MA or Ph.D. applicants who need to develop the required language skills.

Students from groups underrepresented in SASS are especially encouraged to apply. Priority goes to those planning careers involving Nordic studies. Advanced students generally receive lower priority, except when studying less commonly taught Nordic languages, such as a Sámi language or Kalaallisut.

Prepare: A statement of up to 1,000 words addressing your language goals, proposed study and expenses, and the role of diversity in your educational experience; a CV or resume; unofficial transcripts; and contact details for two references.

[Full eligibility and application instructions](#)

Undergraduate Aurora Borealis Prize

\$500 PRIZE

Submission deadline: January 1, 2027

Faculty and teaching assistants are encouraged to nominate outstanding undergraduate papers written for coursework during 2026. Work from any discipline is welcome if its subject is relevant to Scandinavian studies; students may revise their papers before the deadline.

Paper requirements: 10-15 double-spaced pages in 11-12 point type, submitted as a complete research paper or an excerpt from a longer project. Students are encouraged to add a one-paragraph reflection on their learning, writing, and revision process.

The committee considers the strength of the argument, quality of research and sources, and engagement with Scandinavian studies. Nominations should include the student's name, affiliation, email, and the nominator's supporting comments. Recipients are notified in March.

[Full prize details and undergraduate nomination form](#)

SASS Book Talk

newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, November 9, 2026

1:00 p.m. Central

IN CONVERSATION WITH

Rachel Willson-Broyles

Translating contemporary
Swedish literature

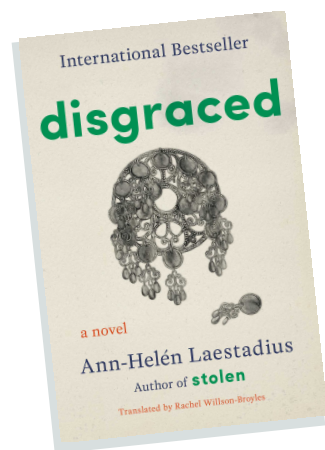


Photo: Brianna Royle Kopka

Join SASS for a conversation with literary translator Rachel Willson-Broyles about her recent work, with a focus on the third novel in Ann-Helén Laestadius's trilogy, which began with *Stolen*.

Marcus Cederstrom will chair the session and lead an initial Q&A, followed by an open discussion.

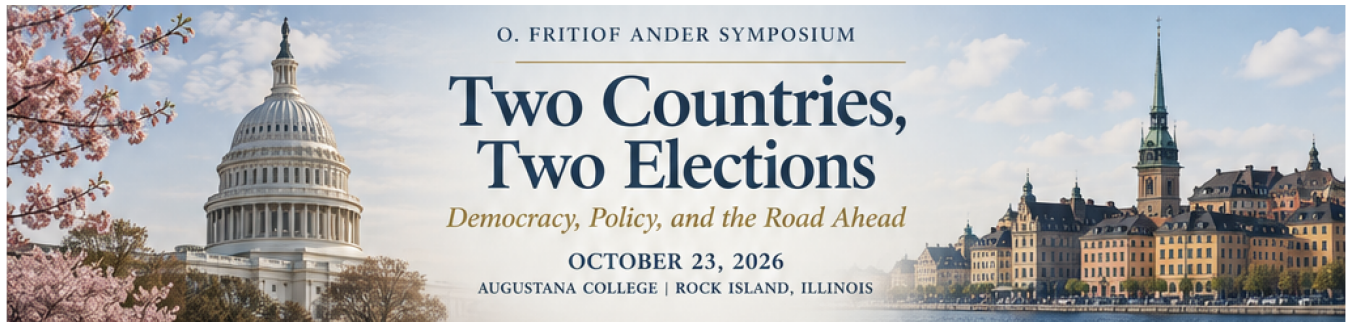
Rachel has translated Swedish literature into English since 2008. She earned her Ph.D. in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2013.

Register for the Book Talk

form.jotform.com/262896387874178

Online Events

Join the conversation | Fall 2026



2026 O. Fritiof Ander Symposium

Friday, October 23 | 2:00-4:30 p.m. Central

Free online participation | Registration required

Explore democracy and political change in Sweden and the United States following Sweden's parliamentary election and ahead of the U.S. midterms. Joakim Palme (Uppsala University) will deliver the keynote, followed by Dave Loeb sack, Karin Henriksson, and Benjamin Teitelbaum. Wendy Hilton-Morrow will moderate, with concluding remarks by Dag Blanck.

Co-sponsored by SASS and the Swenson Swedish American Research Center. Register in advance to receive livestream access. Online participants may submit written questions during the program.

REGISTER FOR THE ANDER SYMPOSIUM

ACLS PRESENTS

AI and Humanistic Inquiry

Scholarship, Ethics, and Knowledge in the Age of AI



Friday, November 13 | 1:00-2:00 p.m. Central

2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern | Free on Zoom | Registration required

This interdisciplinary panel explores AI's implications for scholarship, including access, representation, ethics, research, publication, data, and how knowledge is produced, shared, and valued in the humanities and social sciences.

Carlos Contreras moderates a conversation with Sylvester Johnson (Northwestern University), Kenton Rambsy (Howard University), and Joan McGregor (Arizona State University). Presented by the ACLS Delegates. The event will be recorded.

REGISTER FOR THE ACLS DISCUSSION

ARTIFICIAL

ABSTRACT DEADLINE

January 15, 2027

The general call for papers for the 117th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study in San Francisco at the Hilton Financial District, May 6-8, 2027, is now open!

The presidential theme for the 2027 conference is *Artificial*. As artificial intelligence becomes pervasive, we have opened a space to talk about it in the context of our discipline in the Bay Area, the very heart of where this technology is being developed. Not only that: the idea of the artificial is also broadly generative, and its reach extends well beyond this local and recent context.

At the core is “art” - human making, craft, and its material result; the counterpart of science. Next comes “artifice,” with its associations of ingenuity, technical skill, cunning, falsity and deception. Our theme reaches its destination at “artificial”: fabricated, prosthetic, non-spontaneous. The artificial is the opposite not just of the natural or organic, but especially nowadays, of the human.

[Read more about the presidential theme](#)

Seven streams invite submissions

Bodies in Premodern Nordic Culture

Christine Ekholst, Natalie Van Deusen

Singing the North: Continuity and Disruption from Sibelius to Today

Kathleen Roland-Silverstein, Colin Levin

Constructs of Identity and Belonging

Verena Höfig, Kate Heslop

Ibsen and the Art/ifice/ial

Olivia Gunn

Art and Life: Making Meaning and Belonging in the Nordic World

Tuire Liimatainen, Peter Stadius, Lotta Weckström

Powering Culture: Nordic Energy Landscapes

Katie Ritson, Jenna Coughlin

Art and Artifice in the Nineteenth-Century North

Troy Wellington Smith

Beyond the streams

In addition to proposals for papers on the stream topics, the Program Committee welcomes contributions that fall outside these streams and engage with humanistic questions centering on art, artifice, the artificial and their others in a broad sense, or on the specific questions raised by AI.

Papers and panels that do not explicitly engage with the presidential theme are, naturally and as always, also welcome, as are pre-constituted panels and roundtable submissions.

Preparing your abstract

Maximum 300 words. Include a few keywords to help with programming and discoverability.

The January 15 deadline is a little later than at previous conferences, allowing time over the holiday break to collect thoughts and finalize abstracts. To leave time for the Program Committee’s work, **the deadline cannot be extended.**

UC Berkeley

Hosted by the Department of Scandinavian

Full stream descriptions follow.
sass2027@scandinavianstudy.org

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

ARTIFICIAL | May 6-8, 2027

STREAM 01

Bodies in Premodern Nordic Culture

Organizers: Christine Ekholst, Natalie Van Deusen

Anatomy is destiny, declared Sigmund Freud. Yet, in medieval miracle stories the boundaries between health, illness, death, and life are suspended. Sagas and law codes portrayed disabilities or old age negatively, as unwanted weaknesses. But disabilities were also normalized or could even bring a person closer to God. Old age could bring wisdom and respect. In medieval stories, we find trans monks, disabled chieftains, and open debates about how nature and nurture impacted gender identity. In Old Norse mythology, gods lose body parts, and male gods give birth to monsters. In Nordic medieval law codes, the body appeared as a readable testimony to a crime. The legal body was portrayed as a fragmented collection of limbs, but at the same time as embedded in its social context through concepts such as *manhelgi* (the sanctity of man).

We are looking for contributions discussing bodies as both natural and artificial. This may include: Heroic bodies and portrayals of normative and ideal bodies, often coded masculine. But also, bodies that have been othered: Jewish bodies, disabled bodies, demonic bodies, old bodies. We welcome proposals from any academic discipline and are looking for contributions that center the body, whether in Old Norse myths, Catholic culture, or Lutheran society.

[Full stream calls and conference information](#)

May 6-8, 2027 | San Francisco | scandinavianstudy.org

ARTIFICIAL | May 6-8, 2027

STREAM 02

Singing the North: Continuity and Disruption from Sibelius to Today

Organizers: Kathleen Roland-Silverstein, Colin Levin

This year's Stream centers on the culmination of a decade-long scholarly project: the publication of *A Performance Guide to the Songs of Jean Sibelius* (Oxford University Press, 2026), by Kathleen Roland-Silverstein. As the first comprehensive performance-oriented study in English of Sibelius's vocal repertoire, the volume offers a timely occasion to reconsider the composer's songs not only as historical artifacts but as living touchstones for ongoing conversations in Nordic musical and cultural studies. The Stream especially encourages presentations that are in parallel to the themes of this year's conference as well as the aforementioned publication: the Fennoman Movement and its relationship to Finnish composition; studies in Nordic phonetics; the response to AI in the field of contemporary Nordic composition; the compositional response to Iceland's referendum with the question of joining the EU; maintaining a united Nordic voice at new music festivals in the digital age; composers and compositions with significant milestones.

Together these threads ask what Nordic music study means at a moment of technological, political, and generational change. The accompanying Stream concert, featuring the songs of Sibelius, offers conference attendees a live counterpart to these scholarly conversations, grounding the panel discussions in direct encounter with the repertoire under discussion.

Stream Concert

The Stream concert will feature the songs of Jean Sibelius, his contemporaries, and those he influenced in the larger Nordic musical culture going forward to the present day. The stream especially encourages composers, musicologists, ethnomusicologists, and performers of Nordic Music to submit to this stream. If proposing a lecture-recital or full-recital, please detail the compositions, the performers, and the performers' biographies.

[Full stream calls and conference information](#)

May 6-8, 2027 | San Francisco | scandinavianstudy.org

ARTIFICIAL | May 6-8, 2027

STREAM 03

Constructs of Identity and Belonging

Organizers: Kate Heslop, Verena Höfig

Much post-WWII scholarship emphasized how the naturalness of identity and belonging - whether the self-evidence of 'blood ties', the characteristics of 'races', or the depth of links to place or shared memories - revealed, in its dependence on narratives and cultural schemas, their artificial, constructed character (cf. David Schneider, *American Kinship*, 1968 2nd ed. 1980; Edward Said, *Orientalism*, 1978; Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, 1983; Patrick Geary, *The Myth of Nations*, 2003).

Although these arguments were developed as analyses of modernity and depended on print media and colonial administration, similar ideas characterized the study of premodern epochs. In archaeology, culture-historical approaches that treated assemblages as evidence for peoples and explained change through migration or diffusion were succeeded by approaches emphasizing the situated, negotiated, and constructed character of identities and archaeological interpretation and cautioning against mapping material culture onto ethnic or social groups.

Ancient DNA research and archaeogenetics have complicated the deep past by providing evidence for population movements, admixture, and, in some cases, replacement (cf. David Reich, *Who We Are and How We Got Here*, 2018; Karin Bojs, *Min europeiska familj*, 2015 = *My European Family*, 2017, focused on Scandinavia). Such findings do not make biological populations equivalent to socially constituted identities, nor do populations of the deep past map onto groups inhabiting the same geographies. They do, however, invite renewed consideration of the relationship between population history, cultural change, and historically constructed forms of identity and belonging.

In this stream, we would like to think together about how identity and belonging are constructed in the

Scandinavian context, across the long arc of history. We welcome contributions relating to any historical period. Possible questions include:

- how do language, naming, genealogy, and narrative create, preserve, or challenge ideas of shared origin and belonging?
- what happens when forms of belonging (familial, local, ethnic, linguistic, religious, national, or transnational) overlap or come into conflict?
- how do narratives of identity and belonging reckon with painful, controversial or culpable pasts?
- what are Scandinavia's investments vis-a-vis 'European' (cf. the title of Bojs' book!) identity and belonging?
- what roles do concepts of indigeneity play in Scandinavian cultural products?
- how are premodern histories, genealogies, texts, artefacts, and other evidence mobilized to construct or contest modern identities and forms of belonging?
- how have ideas of ancestry, descent, kinship, and blood been used to define belonging across historical periods? how are they being reshaped by modern genetic and commercial ancestry research?

ARTIFICIAL | May 6-8, 2027

STREAM 04

Ibsen and the Art/ific/ial

Organizer: Olivia Gunn

This year's theme for the ISA Ibsen panel at SASS is "Ibsen and the Art/ific/ial," which is intended to complement the conference's overarching theme. Proposals might take a variety of approaches and consider a range of themes related to art, artifice, and the artificial in Ibsen's writings and their afterlives, including but not limited to:

- Tensions between authenticity and artificiality
- The role of deception and cunning
- The relationship between art and nature
- Ibsen's legacy in the digital realm
- Adaptation and in/fidelity
- The rejection and/or embrace of theatrical artifice, on page or stage

Please note that SASS also welcomes all proposals for papers related to the works and worlds of Henrik Ibsen, regardless of theme or approach.

If you would like your paper to be considered for the ISA panel, please note as much on your proposal, which should be submitted via the SASS conference portal. In the meantime, please address any queries to the Chair, Olivia Noble Gunn (ogunn@uw.edu).

[Full stream calls and conference information](#)

May 6-8, 2027 | San Francisco | scandinavianstudy.org

ARTIFICIAL | May 6-8, 2027

STREAM 05

Art and Life: Making Meaning and Belonging in the Nordic World

Organizers: Tuire Liimatainen, Peter Stadius, Lotta Weckström

Art and creative practices serve as a means through which individuals and communities make sense of place, identity, and belonging, whether through inherited traditions or newly forged practices. They offer reflection surfaces for us to find new ways to express identities. This stream invites papers and panels exploring how music, visual arts, architecture, literature, social media, and everyday creative practices shape meaning-making and belonging across the Nordic and Nordic diaspora experience, and how artistic and creative expressions reflect histories and places.

We welcome contributions on topics including, but not limited to: art as a site of identity politics, gender, indigenous art and cultural expression, migration, and multilingual or minority experience; music and visual art as vehicles for community formation, memory, and resistance; digital and social media as spaces for artistic self-expression, political identities, activism, and belonging. In addition, we invite submissions about folk traditions in dialogue with contemporary art practice; and diasporic or transnational Nordic art-making that negotiates multiple homes and identities at once. We are especially interested in papers that treat art not merely as object or output, but as lived practice - something people do together to create, contest, or sustain a sense of belonging. We welcome performance-based submissions with visual and embodied components including music. Perspectives from art history, ethnomusicology, literature, cultural studies, media studies, and beyond are all welcome.

[Full stream calls and conference information](#)

May 6-8, 2027 | San Francisco | scandinavianstudy.org

ARTIFICIAL | May 6-8, 2027

STREAM 06

Powering Culture: Nordic Energy Landscapes

Organizers: Katie Ritson, Jenna Coughlin

The technologies that mediate culture - from the vellum and paper used to make books to the digital infrastructure underpinning streaming services and AI - are dependent on the availability of sufficient energy resources. The growing demand for these resources, from livestock grazing, forestry, hydropower to fossil fuel extraction and windfarms, appear in the physical environment as what we term here “energy landscapes.” The controversy surrounding data centers is just the latest in a long history of landscape transformations in the service of energy needs. From deforested Iceland to dams that block reindeer migration routes in Sápmi, from coal mines on Svalbard to nuclear waste bunkers in Finland, energy landscapes make visible and tangible the cost of our dependencies on energy abundance and growth.

In this stream, we invite contributions that explore the history and culture of energy landscapes in Nordic countries. How are energy landscapes entangled with aesthetic preferences and cultural practices over time? How have new energy landscapes been opposed and accepted, which strategies have activists and energy companies used to influence attitudes towards energy landscapes? How are energy landscapes represented and reflected in today’s literary and screen cultures? Do aesthetic and affective responses to energy landscapes inform opinions towards new technologies?

In a cultural moment in which growing demand for energy collides with geopolitical tensions around supply and increased awareness of the environmental costs of energy systems, this stream provides an opportunity to explore and compare different historical and geographical case studies from across the Nordic region and consider the connections between energy systems, landscapes, and cultural production.

[Full stream calls and conference information](#)

May 6-8, 2027 | San Francisco | scandinavianstudy.org

ARTIFICIAL | May 6-8, 2027

STREAM 07

Art and Artifice in the Nineteenth-Century North

Organizer: Troy Smith

Taking Lessing's *Laocoön* treatise (1766) as its point of departure, early nineteenth-century aesthetics deemed visual art static, lifeless, and - one might say - artificial. Poetry, on the other hand, was supposed to be dynamic, vibrant, and - in the Platonic sense - real. By poetry, the aestheticians meant verse performed orally rather than fixed to the page, but Romantic authors cultivated various techniques for exerting their living presence in print, as Friedrich Kittler demonstrates in the German context in his *Aufschreibesysteme* (1985). Thus, literature towered over the visual arts in conventional aesthetic hierarchies circa 1800.

By the middle of the century, however, technologies such as plein-air painting and photography had redeemed the image both aesthetically and epistemologically. Whereas the former eventually led to a livelier style of brushwork that recalled paint or even light in motion, the latter produced images that were commonsensically "more real" than those of other media. Meanwhile, movements such as Naturalism on the Continent and the Modern Breakthrough in the Nordics rejected the alleged artifice of Romanticism for new forms of art, fiction and drama that captured fin-de-siècle society with a gaze as unsparing as that of a camera, rendering an empirical - rather than a Platonic - truth or reality.

This stream welcomes papers on any aspect of visual art in the Nordics in the long nineteenth century (1789-1914), or papers on the notion of artificiality in relation to the literature, film, or music of the period. With that said, the organizers are particularly interested in presentations that engage with the mid-century turn described above, in which the image went from mere inanimate artifice to a particularly modern paradigm of living truth.

[Full stream calls and conference information](#)

May 6-8, 2027 | San Francisco | scandinavianstudy.org

Stay at the conference hotel

Hilton San Francisco Financial District

750 Kearny Street | San Francisco, CA 94108

Stay close to conference sessions, Chinatown, North Beach, and the Embarcadero. Booking through the SASS room block supports the Society's conference commitments.

\$189 / NIGHT

Plus taxes and fees

Rate available: May 4-9, 2027

Reserve by: March 30, 2027 | Rooms are limited.

BOOK YOUR SASS HOTEL ROOM

Graduate student support: Information about support for graduate students staying at the conference hotel will be announced soon.

Preferred travel partners

Special airfare offers are available for SASS 2027 attendees. Eligible routes, travel dates, and discounts vary by airline.

AIR CANADA

Enter promotion code **QBHE27N1** when booking on Air Canada's website.

BOOK AIR CANADA

SOUTHWEST

Use the SASS booking link below to access special Southwest rates.

BOOK SOUTHWEST

Lufthansa: Booking page forthcoming. Check the SASS travel page for updates.

Plan your visit

[Hotel, airline offers, and local transportation information](#)
sass2027@scandinavianstudy.org

Scandinavian Studies

The journal of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study

TOVE DITLEVSEN TODAY

Call for papers | Special issue

Fifty years after her death, Tove Ditlevsen is being celebrated as a major voice in Nordic and world literature and a precursor to contemporary autofiction. This special issue examines her rediscovery and asks what her renewed prominence reveals about literary culture, translation, and publishing today.

How is Ditlevsen read across national contexts? What distinguishes memoir, autobiography, and autofiction in her work? How do narrative style, intimate relationships, class, and gender shape her writing and its reception?



Tove Ditlevsen

The co-editors welcome proposals from critics, literary scholars, translators, and writers working across cultural studies, critical theory, feminist and gender studies, and translation studies. Areas of inquiry include:

- Aesthetics, modernism, narration, and genre
- Autofiction, writing the self, and the ethics of autobiographical writing
- Feminism, reproductive rights, and family relations
- Materialism, cultural history, working-class life, and urban spaces
- International reception and translation theory and practice

Proposal deadline: December 1, 2026

Submit a 300-word proposal to the special issue's co-editors:

Torben Jelsbak: tjelsbak@hum.ku.dk

Marianne Stecher-Hansen: marianne@uw.edu



Share Your Research in Scandinavian Studies

The journal welcomes original research on Nordic languages, literatures, histories, cultures, and societies, from medieval to contemporary times. Published by the University of Wisconsin Press for SASS, it spans the humanities and social sciences.

[Submission guidelines](#) | [About the journal](#)

Questions and submissions: editor@scandinavianstudy.org

VOLUME 98,
ISSUE 4
OUT SOON!

SPECIAL ISSUE SPOTLIGHT

AfroNordic Feminisms

Black feminist knowledge, creativity, and community

What does it mean to theorize, articulate, and practice Black/Afrofeminism from a distinctly Nordic standpoint?

The *AfroNordic Feminisms* special issue of *Scandinavian Studies* brings together scholars, artists, and community organizers across generations and national contexts. Building on a long history of Black feminist scholarly, cultural, and political engagement in the region, the collection centers AfroNordic feminist scholarship and practice.

The contributions explore how AfroNordic feminist knowledge and praxis emerge under constraint yet flourish through relational, embodied, and creative modes of theorizing, opening possibilities for imagining liberatory futures beyond Nordic exceptionalism.

Conversations across the collection

AfroNordic feminist knowledge production
Belonging, identity, and collective healing
Art and the politics of representation

The issue was celebrated with a virtual launch symposium on October 6, 2026, featuring presentations by its co-editors and contributors.

Read the special issue on Project MUSE or through the University of Wisconsin Press.

PROJECT MUSE

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN PRESS

New Publications

newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org

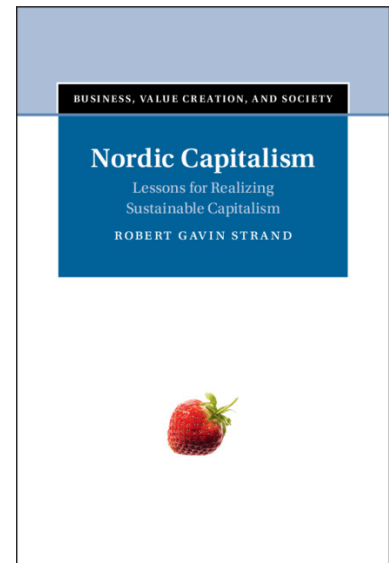
Nordic Capitalism: Lessons for Realizing Sustainable Capitalism

Author: Robert Gavin Strand
Cambridge University Press, 2026

What can the United States learn from the Nordic countries about capitalism, democracy, and sustainability? In *Nordic Capitalism*, Robert Gavin Strand compares Nordic and American approaches to economic life, exploring how democratic institutions, business practices, and social values shape prosperity and well-being.

Read free online or find purchasing information:

doi.org/10.1017/9781009646567



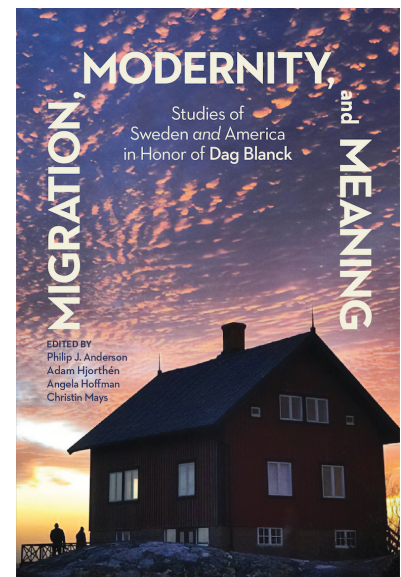
Migration, Modernity, and Meaning: Studies of Sweden and America in Honor of Dag Blanck

Editors: Philip J. Anderson, Adam Hjorthén,
Angela Hoffman, and Christin Mays
Swedish-American Historical Society, 2025

Honoring Dag Blanck's contributions to Swedish-American and North American studies, this Festschrift brings together 46 essays by 49 contributors. Reflecting the breadth of his research interests, the collection explores migration, cultural exchange, and the connections between Sweden and America while offering a wide-ranging perspective on the field today.

For more information or to purchase:

[Swedish-American Historical Society](https://www.sahsociety.org/)



Share Your New Publication in News & Notes!

Have an upcoming publication to feature? Email newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org with the details, a high-resolution cover image, and a link to the publisher's website.

Calls for Papers

newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org

Danish American Heritage Society 50th Anniversary Conference Bridges



May 13-15, 2027 | Grand View University
Des Moines, Iowa

The Danish American Heritage Society invites papers exploring connections among people, space, and time through the Danish community's cultural contributions to America and the identities, expressions, and experiences that emerge from them.

Topics may include immigration, religion and church history, art, literature, music, history, philosophy, Danish American lives, athletics, food, crafts, traditions, business, technology, and education.

Submit proposals or abstracts to Matthew Plowman:

mplowman@grandview.edu

Proposal review began August 31, 2026. Contact the organizer about current submission availability.

Conference information: danishheritage.org



KENTUCKY FOREIGN LANGUAGE CONFERENCE

Meaning in Motion: Languages, Cultures, and the Art of Connection

April 15-17, 2027 | University of Kentucky, Lexington

Virtual panels April 15; in-person sessions April 16-17

The 80th KFLC invites proposals exploring how language, culture, literature, and human interaction create meaning across communities, disciplines, and borders. Submissions outside the theme are welcome across its disciplinary tracks, including linguistics, translation studies, intercultural studies, and language and literature studies.

Abstract deadline: November 2, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EST

Submit individual abstracts of up to 250 words or organized panel proposals comprising four to five presentations.

Conference information and submission guidelines: kflc.as.uky.edu

Funding Opportunities

newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org



FULBRIGHT HILDEMAN FELLOWSHIP University of Wisconsin-Madison | Spring 2028

The Fulbright Hildeman Fellowship supports a semester of teaching in Scandinavian studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison during spring 2028. The host program seeks a Swedish scholar with expertise in Nordic history and welcomes interdisciplinary approaches to Nordic and diasporic contexts.

Eligibility: Swedish citizenship, proficiency in English, a doctoral or other terminal degree by departure, and demonstrated university teaching experience. U.S. citizens, including dual citizens, and U.S. permanent residents are not eligible.

Support: SEK 150,000 grant; SEK 15,000 round-trip travel allowance; accident and sickness insurance; and SEVIS and J-1 visa fees.

Application deadline: January 11, 2027

[Program details, eligibility, and application instructions](#)

LUCE/ACLS CIVIC EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRATIC LIFE GRANTS



The Luce/ACLS Civic Education for Democratic Life (CEDLife) program is accepting letters of intent to support the expansion of existing university programs that bring community members, undergraduate students, and faculty together to create civic knowledge.

The program will support five exemplary programs offering curricular opportunities in the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Its focus is on strengthening democratic life through communication, critical analysis, and engagement with diverse perspectives.

Letter of intent deadline: December 1, 2026

Upcoming online office hours: November 6, noon-1 p.m. Eastern

Questions: cedlife@acl.org

[Program details and application requirements](#)

Have a Funding Opportunity to Share?

Send announcements and application details to
newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org.

Funding Opportunities

American-Scandinavian Foundation | Research, creative work, and teaching

ASF Fellowships for Americans in the Nordic Countries



2027-2028 academic year

The American-Scandinavian Foundation supports research and creative arts projects in Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Sápmi. Awards are offered in all fields.

LONG-TERM FELLOWSHIPS

Up to \$23,000 | 4-12 months

SHORT-TERM FELLOWSHIPS

Up to \$5,000 | 1-3 months

Who can apply: Graduate students, preferably pursuing dissertation-related work, and academic professionals undertaking research or creative arts projects in the Nordic region. See the application guidelines for full eligibility requirements.

Application deadline: November 1, 2026

[Program details and application instructions](#)

ASF Norwegian Visiting Lectureship

A one-semester award supporting teaching and research, with a contemporary focus on public policy, conflict resolution, environmental studies, the Arctic, multiculturalism, or healthcare.

Award support: A \$20,000 teaching and research stipend, plus an additional \$5,000 travel stipend for lecture appearances outside the host institution.

ASF's 27th annual competition is open. Consult the program guidelines for applicant and host-institution requirements and application materials.

Application deadline: January 1, 2027

[Lectureship details and application instructions](#)

Questions? grants@amscan.org

In Memoriam

Frank R. Hugus

1941-2026

Frank R. Hugus, professor emeritus of German and Scandinavian Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, died in September 2026 in Amherst. He is survived by his wife, Susan; his daughter, Jennifer; and three siblings.



Born in Franklin, Pennsylvania, Frank earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees at Pennsylvania State University in 1963 and 1965, respectively, and his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in 1972.

Frank taught Scandinavian and German subjects at UMass Amherst from 1970 until his retirement in 2020. His wide-ranging repertoire included Old Icelandic language and literature, the history of the German language, modern Danish, Scandinavian mythology, Hans Christian Andersen, the dramas of Ibsen and Strindberg, trolls, giants, and dwarves, and humor and social satire in Scandinavian literature. He also taught abroad in France through Fulbright and in Germany through the Baden-Württemberg Exchange.

A prolific scholar, Frank received research grants from Fulbright, the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American-Scandinavian Foundation for projects in Denmark and Iceland. His principal research focused on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Danish literature, and he also published on a variety of medieval Icelandic literary topics.

Frank was also an energetic translator, beginning with novels and stories by mid-twentieth-century Danish writers, especially Hans Scherfig and Frank Jæger. He later turned to Hans Christian Andersen. His complete translation of Andersen's debut novel, *The Improvisatore* (1835), was published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2018. He also published translations of two Andersen dramas, *The Mulatto* and *The Moorish Girl*, in 2021.

Frank devoted himself to the profession and especially to UMass. He served on numerous departmental, college, and university committees, including many years on the Faculty Senate. He chaired the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature for nine years and served for nine years as vice provost and director of the university's International Programs Office.

Colleagues and friends will always remember Frank warmly for his resilience, positive thinking, and great sense of humor.

His UMass colleagues and friends,
James Cathey
Eric Einhorn
Sherrill Harbison

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR SOCIETY.

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Support Scandinavian studies.



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Standard	\$130

Student+	\$70
Student	\$50
Limited Resource+	\$100
Limited Resource	\$80

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

Questions? exec-director@scandinavianstudy.org

Help shape what comes next.

Your gift supports the people, scholarship,
and conversations that bring our field together.

01

The Annual Fund

Keep SASS connected. Your gift supports book talks, News & Notes, and the publication of *Scandinavian Studies*.

Annual fundraising goal: \$50,000

02

Graduate student support

Help reduce financial barriers through support for conference fees, accommodations, and awards such as the Aurora Borealis.

Goal: \$100,000 by SASS 2028

03

SASS 2027: San Francisco

Help keep conference participation affordable, support sponsorship opportunities, and sustain the annual gathering at the heart of our community.

May 6-8, 2027 | San Francisco

Make a gift. Make a difference.

scandinavianstudy.org/about-us/support-us/

Local Events

Connect with Nordic communities | Fall and holiday season 2026

Local events - including social gatherings beyond academic topics - are wonderful opportunities to meet neighbors who share an interest in Scandinavia. They can also spark conversations about your work and the work happening at your university. These connections may also lead to relationships with people who may be interested in supporting your program.

With the holidays approaching, there are many events to explore. We have gathered a few examples found through a simple internet search, alongside announcements shared with us. Have another event to recommend? Send it to newsandnotes@scandinavianstudy.org so we can share it with the SASS community in an upcoming issue of News & Notes.

MIDWEST

Oshkosh, Wisconsin | Norse Valley Lodge

November 1 | Social hour 4 p.m. dinner 5 p.m.

La Sure's Banquet Hall. Lutefisk, meatballs, lefse, and live music. Reservations required; nonmembers \$35.

[Details and reservations](#)

Minneapolis, Minnesota | Norway House

November 5 | 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Lutefiskfestivalen offers a contemporary Norwegian-style dinner at 913 East Franklin Avenue.

[Details and reservations](#)

DeForest, Wisconsin | Christ Lutheran Church

November 14 | Hourly seatings 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Lutefisk and meatball dinner; adults \$28. Reserve by November 3 at noon.

[Details and reservations](#)

Minneapolis, Minnesota | American Swedish Institute

November 15 | 1:00-3:00 p.m.

ASI's annual Lutefisk Dinner invites longtime fans and curious newcomers to the table. Listed price: \$70.

[Details and reservations](#)

Minneapolis, Minnesota | Mindekirken

November 21 | Seatings 12:30, 2:30, and 4:30 p.m.

Family-style lutefisk, meatballs, lefse, potatoes, and dessert. Adults \$28, plus ticket fee.

[Details and reservations](#)

Local Events

Nordic community gatherings | Fall and holiday season 2026

MIDWEST | CONTINUED

Rock Island, Illinois | American Scandinavian Association

Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner | November 6 | Reserve by October 30

Gävle Room, Gerber Center, 3435 9 1/2 Avenue. Visiting at 5:30 p.m.; dinner at 6; talk at 7. Enjoy lutefisk, Swedish meatballs, lefse, and traditional sides, followed by Adam Bierstedt of the Museum of Danish America. \$25 per person; \$10 for students. Contact Kimberly La Palm for reservations.

[Details and reservations](#)

Rock Island, Illinois | Swenson Swedish American Research Center

Julbord Dinner | November 30

Gather for a traditional Swedish-American Christmas smörgåsbord and companionship, with herring, salmon, potato sausage, meatballs, rice pudding, and other holiday favorites. Held the same evening as Lucia. Registration details forthcoming.

[Details and reservations](#)

Rock Island, Illinois | Augustana College

Festival of Sankta Lucia | November 30 | 7:00 p.m.

Celebrate with Scandinavian Christmas carols, lessons, poetry, and a candlelight procession. Ascension Chapel, Bahls Leadership Center, 820 38th Street. Free admission.

[Details and reservations](#)

Local Events

Nordic community gatherings | Fall and holiday season 2026

EAST COAST

New York, New York | New York Baltic Film Festival

November 5-8 | Scandinavia House, 58 Park Avenue

New cinema from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, with screenings, filmmaker conversations, and receptions.

[Details and reservations](#)

New York, New York | An Enemy of the People

October 22-24 | Minor Latham Playhouse, Barnard College

Henrik Ibsen's play, adapted by Arthur Miller and directed by Shannon Sindelar. October 22 and 23 at 7 p.m.; October 24 at 2 and 7 p.m. General admission \$14.

[Details and reservations](#)

New York, New York | Carl Nielsen at Merkin Hall

October 24 | 7:30 p.m. | 129 West 67th Street

Pegasus: The Orchestra performs Nielsen's Symphony No. 1 in Brilliance in Motion, conducted by Karén Hakobyan. Also featuring Glinka and Prokofiev, with pianist Reed Tetzloff.

[Details and reservations](#)

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | Julbord & Lucia Fest

Julbord December 4 | Lucia Fest December 5-6

The American Swedish Historical Museum welcomes the season with a Swedish holiday dinner, Lucia celebrations, and a Christmas market.

[Details and reservations](#)

Local Events

Nordic community gatherings | Fall and holiday season 2026

WEST COAST

Seattle, Washington | Viking Blood

October 22 | 6:00-7:00 p.m. | National Nordic Museum

Kate Heslop presents Viking Blood: Premodern Scandinavia and Thereafter, tracing blood through medieval Scandinavian poetry, sagas, learned literature, and art.

[Details and reservations](#)

Seattle, Washington | A Ballard Story: Pacific Fishermen

Now on view | National Nordic Museum

Explore Seattle's maritime heritage through Pacific Fishermen, Inc., one of Ballard's last working shipyards, and the neighborhood's evolving waterfront.

[Details and reservations](#)

Yakima, Washington | Odin Lodge

November 7 | 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Lutefisk and meatballs, lefse, traditional desserts, and a bake sale at West Valley Church.

[Details and reservations](#)

Portland, Oregon | Grieg Lodge

November 8 | Seatings noon, 2, 4, and 6 p.m.

Family-style lutefisk dinner with Scandinavian sale and raffle. \$75; Sons of Norway members \$50.

[Details and reservations](#)

Seattle, Washington | Seattle Sauna Festival

November 7-8 | National Nordic Museum

Explore sauna culture in Ballard. Festival tickets include museum admission on the festival dates.

[Details and reservations](#)

Seattle, Washington | Julefest

November 20-22 | National Nordic Museum

Celebrate the Nordic holiday season with a market, traditional foods, music, and community festivities.

[Details and reservations](#)

San Francisco, California | SWEA Christmas Fair

December 5 | 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Saint Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough Street. Swedish food, gifts, crafts, and Lucia concerts at 10 a.m. and noon.

[Details and reservations](#)

Local Events

Nordic community gatherings | Fall and holiday season 2026

SOUTH

Atlanta, Georgia | SWEA Julmarknad

December 5 | 10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Explore SWEA Atlanta's traditional Swedish Christmas market and seasonal celebrations.

[Details and reservations](#)

Raleigh, North Carolina | Scandinavian Christmas Fair

December 5

Celebrate the traditions of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland through crafts, food, and entertainment.

[Details and reservations](#)

SOUTHWEST

Albuquerque, New Mexico | Scandinavian Festival

November 7 | 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Scandinavian food, folk art, and entertainment at St. John's United Methodist Church. Free admission and parking.

[Details and reservations](#)