

Swedish Association for American Studies (SAAS)
Newsletter, Spring 2021

STATE OF THE FIELD

**American Studies in Sweden
in the year 2020**

For more information about SAAS,
please visit www.saasinfo.se.

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Preface to the 2021 Newsletter

This is the third newsletter issued by SAAS intended to outline the “state of the field” of North American Studies in Sweden. It contains information on academic activities by people working at or being affiliated with a Swedish university or institute of higher education or working as independent scholars in Sweden. The information was gathered in February and March 2021 through the help of association members, as well as by the efforts of the members of the SAAS board.

Although the survey clearly does not cover the field in its entirety, it gives a sense of the individuals that create the landscape of American Studies in Sweden. An observation is that scholars in Sweden continue to be quite active. There were at least four monographs, two of which are dissertations, one edited volume, twelve journal articles, and five chapters in edited volumes published last year by scholars in Sweden on American Studies topics. The effect of Covid-19 can of course be traced in the American Studies landscape in Sweden as well, most clearly in activities such as conferences, workshops, and symposia. Some events have been postponed or cancelled, most notably the SAAS symposium that was planned for Karlstad University in connection with the SAAS general meeting in October 2020. As academia has adapted to the new circumstances, web-based symposia, seminars, and workshops have increased in number, opening for new meeting places in American Studies. One such that deserves particular mention is a new seminar series in American studies, initiated by the Swedish institute for North American Studies at Uppsala University, SINAS.

If you have suggestions on how to improve the survey or the newsletter, please send a note to the SAAS board through jenny.bonnevier@oru.se.

On behalf of the SAAS board,
Jenny Bonnevier
President of SAAS

The SAAS Board (2020–2022)

Jenny Bonnevier, Örebro University (President)
Joel Frykholm, Lund University (Vice-President)
Chloé Avril, University of Gothenburg (Treasurer)
David Östlund, Södertörn University (Secretary)
Bo G. Ekelund, Stockholm University
Oskar Nordell, Uppsala University
Adam Gilbert, Uppsala University
Marie Bennedahl, Linnaeus University (Deputy Board Member)

Publications

Monographs

Bennedahl, Marie. *Fall in Line: Gender, Bodies and the Memories of the American Civil War in Scandinavian Reenactment*. PhD diss. Växjö: Linnaeus University Press, 2020.

Fahlstedt, Kim. *Chinatown Film Culture: The Appearance of Cinema in San Francisco's Chinese Neighborhood*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2020.

Galili, Doron. *Seeing by Electricity: The Emergence of Television, 1878–1939*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2020.

Marques, Nuno. *Atmospheric and Geological Entanglements: North American Ecopoetry and the Anthropocene*. PhD diss. Department of Language studies, Umeå University, 2020.

Sundman, Alice. *Toni Morrison and the Writing of Place*. PhD diss. Department of English, Stockholm University, 2020.

Edited Volumes

Avril, Chloé, Zlatan Filipovic, Marius Hentea, Houman Sadri and Ulla Åkerström, eds. "Special issue – Literature, Language and Politics: Essays in Honour of Ronald Paul." *Nordic Journal of English Studies* 19, no. 5 (2020).

Journal Articles

Avril, Chloé. "‘Why can’t y’all be like Perry Mason?’: Black Panther Autobiography Meets Crime Fiction." *Nordic Journal of English Studies* 19, no. 5 (2020): 65-96.

Bell, Wade. "‘The new messiah of the battlefields’: The Body as Discursive Strategy in Dalton Trumbo’s *Johnny Got His Gun*." *Nordic Journal of English Studies* 19, no. 5 (2020): 47-63.

- Cananau, Iulian. "On the Path to Citizenship. A Conceptual Historicist Reading of Antebellum Women's Protest Literature." *Orbis Litterarum* 75, no. 1 (2020): 1-14.
- Frykholm, Joel. "The Not-So-Golden Age of Swedish Silent Cinema? Historiographies of Isepa (1926–1928)." *Kosmorama*, no. 278 (2020).
- Fåhraeus, Anna. "Cultural Materialism in the Production and Distribution of Exploitative Lesbian Film: A Historical Case Study of *Children of Loneliness* (1935)." *Nordic Journal of English Studies* 19, no. 5 (2020): 121-154
- Holmgren Troy, Maria. "Imagining Gender in Nineteenth-Century Fairy Tales by Hans Christian Andersen and Richard Henry Stoddard." *Nordic Journal of English Studies* 19, no. 4 (2020): 61-84.
- Kane, Daniel. "Reading Sophie Robinson Through Frank O'Hara's 'Ploop!'" *Textual Practice* 34, no. 10 (2020): 1769-1785.
- Lennon, John and Magnus Nilsson. "Reexamining the Proletarian Fictional Autobiography: Class, Gender and Aesthetics in Agnes Smedley's *Daughter of Earth*." *Nordic Journal of English Studies* 19, no. 5 (2020): 1–28.
- Marques, Nuno. "A New Song of Ourselves – Contributions of Gary Snyder's Poetics of Place to Current Ecopoetics." *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities* 1, no. 2 (December 2020): pp. 32-46.
- Marques, Nuno. "Ecopoetry: Overcoming Anthropocene Melancholia in the Work of Juliana Spahr and Allison Cobb." *Kulturella perspektiv - Svensk etnologisk tidskrift*, no. 3 (2020): 35-42.
- Routledge, Laura. "'Happenings...don't merely dig the scene, they make it': The Social Meaning of the Work of Art in Allan Kaprow's Happenings." *Nordic Journal of English Studies* 19, no. 5 (2020): 97-120.
- Sadri, Houman. "The Return Journey in Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*." *The Journal of Popular Culture* 53, no. 1 (2020): 111-128.
- Ullén, Magnus. "The Art of Judgment: Postcritique and the Particular Case." *Nordic Journal of English Studies* 19, no. 4 (2020): 195-217.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- Backman Rogers, Anna. "Liminal Spaces, Lesbian Desire and Veering off Course in Todd Haynes' *Carol*." In *Film and Domestic Space: Architectures, Representations, Dispositif*, edited by Stefano Baschiera and Miriam De Rosa. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2020.
- Holmgren Troy, Maria. "Lost (and Gained) in Translation: Nordic Gothic and Transcultural Adaptation." In *Nordic Gothic*, edited by Maria Holmgren Troy, Johan Höglund, Yvonne Leffler and Sofia Wijkmark, 147–168. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2020.

Kane, Daniel. "Paul Blackburn et son magnétophone Wollensack." In *Archives Sonores de La Poésie*, edited by Abigail Lang, Michel Murat and Céline Pardo. Paris, France: Les Presses du Reel, 2020.

Zetterman, Eva. "The U.S.-Mexico Border in Visual Art by Chicanas/os: Transcending National Barriers of Cultural Heritage." In *New Approach to Cultural Heritage: Profiling Discourse Across Borders*, edited by Cheng Le, Yang Jianping and Cai Jianming, 431-466. Hangzhou: Zhejiang University Press, 2020.

Östlund, David. "Exemplet *intercultural education* i USA 1925–41: Kan skolan odla kulturell demokrati?" In *Perspektiv på interkulturalitet*, edited by Helena Hill, 111–151. Huddinge: Södertörn Studies in Education 3, 2020.

Reviews

Bonnevier, Jenny. "Book Review: Equine Fictions. Human-Horse Relationships in Twenty-First Century Writing." *American Studies in Scandinavia* 52, no. 1 (2020): 149-152.

Miscellaneous

Gilbert, Adam. "Toppling Statues: On Judging the Past." *Abusable Past*, 17 July 2020, www.radicalhistoryreview.org/abusablepast/toppling-statues-on-judging-the-past

Bolin, Niklas, Kajsa Falasca, Marie Grusell, and Lars Nord (eds). *Stjärnspäckat: Reflektioner från amerikanska presidentvalet 2020 av ledande forskare*. Sundsvall: Mittuniversitetet, 2020.

Hjorthén, Adam. "Stormare i strid mot alla forskare." *Aftonbladet*, July 1, 2020.

Kane, Daniel. "Därför är Louise Glucks poesi långtifrån universell." *Dagens Nyheter* November 11, 2020.

New Appointments

Cananau, Iulian. Member of the Board of the Faculty of Education and Business Studies, University of Gävle, January 2020.

Gilbert, Adam. Researcher in American Studies, Swedish Institute for North American Studies, Uppsala University, October 2020

Hjorthén, Adam. Senior Lecturer (fixed term), Swedish Institute for North American Studies, Department of English, Uppsala University.

Kane, Daniel. Professor and Chair in American Literature, Department of English, Uppsala University.

Marques, Nuno. Lecturer (fixed term), Department of Language Studies, Umeå University, December 2020.

Dissertation Defenses

Bennedahl, Marie. *Fall in Line: Gender, Bodies and the Memories of the American Civil War in Scandinavian Reenactment*. Department of Cultural Sciences, Linnaeus University, April 17, 2020.

Marques, Nuno. *Atmospheric and Geological Entanglements: North American Eco-poetry and the Anthropocene*. Department of Language Studies, Umeå University, December 5, 2020.

Sadri, Houman. *Reconfiguring the Hero's Journey: The Monomyth in Contemporary Popular Culture*. Department of Languages and Literature, University of Gothenburg, September 15, 2020.

Sundman, Alice. *Toni Morrison and the Writing of Place*. Department of English, Stockholm University, September 18, 2020.

Svensson, Fredrik. *Ideology and Symbolism in the Novels of Cormac McCarthy*. Karlstad University, March 27, 2020.

Organized Conferences, Seminars, and Lectures

“Swedish-American Borderlands.” Stream with six sessions and eighteen papers arranged by Adam Hjorthén and Dag Blanck. Accepted to the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (SASS), San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 29–May 3, 2020. [*note: cancelled due to Covid-19*]

”Amerikanska rasrelationer och Sverige.” Participants: Anna Jonsson Cornell (Uppsala University), Gunlög Fur (Linnaeus University), Karin Henriksson (journalist/author), Ola Larsmo (author), Per Erik Nilsson (Uppsala University), Jonathan Rollins (stand-up comedian), and Jayson Sae-Saue (Southern Methodist University). Moderator: Dag Blanck. Symposium arranged by SINAS together with Uppsala Forum för Demokrati, Fred och Rättvisa, September 30, 2020.

“The Most Consequential Election in Our Time? A Panel Discussion on the American Elections 2020.” Participants: Lance Bennett, William Haltom, Karin Henriksson, Frida Stranne. Moderator: Dag Blanck. Arranged by SINAS together with Uppsala Forum för Demokrati, Fred och Rättvisa, November 2, 2020.

“Conversation: Ron and Pejk talk about Joe. Ron Padgett (Poet, New York City) and Pejk Malinovski (Poet, Copenhagen) talk about visual artist, memoirist and poet Joe Brainard.” Moderator: Daniel Kane. Online event arranged by the English Department, Uppsala University, November 9, 2020.

“Experimental: Language Writing, Two Whales, and a Dream of the Future.”
Participant: Natalia Cecire (University of Sussex). Moderator: Daniel Kane. Lecture
arranged by the English Department, Uppsala University, December 14, 2020.

“SINAS Seminars.” New seminar series in American Studies arranged by SINAS, began
in November 2020. It will feature a seminar every fourth Monday of the month at 15:15–
17:00.

Presentations and Lectures

Duncan, Joel. “Automobility’s Cruel Optimism: Claudia Rankine, Ta-Nehisi Coates, and
Black Lives Matter.” SINAS Seminar online, November 23, 2020.

Gilbert, Adam. “The War in Vietnam and the Rise of the American Carceral State.”
British Association for American Studies Digital Dialogues, online, July 6, 2020.

Kane, Daniel. “Harold Norse’s Friends.” LILAE – Litterae et Linguae, Zoom, November
16, 2020.

Östlund, David. Guest lecture within the Scandinavian Program, University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor, concerning modern Swedish history in comparison with the U.S. and images
of Sweden in the U.S. Prerecorded lecture + Q&A live on Zoom, October 21, 2020.

Courses and Teaching

At SINAS, Uppsala University

American Studies I, A-level (30 credits)

American History I (7.5 credits). Online and Campus Course.

American Politics I (7.5 credits). Online and Campus Course.

Race and Ethnicity in the United States (7.5 credits).

American Mass Media I (7.5 credits).

American Studies II, B-level (30 credits)

American History II (7.5 credits).

American Politics II (7.5 credits).

American 20th Century Literature (7.5 credits).

American Mass Media II (7.5 credits).

At the Department of English, Uppsala University

A-level

American 20th Century Literature (7.5 credits).

Writing American Selves: Fictional and Non-Fictional Self-Portraiture (7.5 credits).

B-level

American Literature and Culture B (30 hp), including American Literature (7 credits).

MA Program in American Literature and Culture (120 credits)

Rethinking 19th Century American Literature (7.5 credits).

Inventing America: The Writings of the Colonies and Early Republic (7.5 credits).

Modernism and Modernity in America (7.5 credits).

Reading the Contemporary: Post-45 American Literature and Culture (7.5 credits).

From the Beat Generation to the Black Arts Movement (7.5 credits).

American Literature and Intersectionality (7.5 credits).

Genre and Literary Form (7.5 credits).

At Other Universities in Sweden

Contemporary American Literature (7.5 credits). C-level, Department of Languages and Literatures (English), University of Gothenburg.

Literature and Literary Theory, (7.5 credits). Part of English 61-90, Department of Humanities, University of Gävle.

Survey Course in American Literature (7.5 credits). Part of English 31-60, Department of Humanities, University of Gävle.

African American women's novels (7.5 credits). M.A.-level, Department of Language, Literature and Intercultural Studies, Karlstad University.

American Literature 1620–1919 (7.5 credits). M.A. and Ph.D.-level, Department of Language, Literature and Intercultural Studies, Karlstad University.

Idéhistorisk temakurs: Svarta tänkare under raslagarnas epok i USA (7.5 credits) (Thematic Course in Intellectual History: Black thinkers in the era of legislated segregation in the USA). B-level, Intellectual history, Södertörn University.

Bakom slöjan: svart erfarenhet och tänkande från slaveri- och segregationsepokerna (7.5 credits) (Behind the Veil: Black experience and thought during the eras of slavery och segregation). PhD-level, course given within Nationella forskarskolan i historia, Södertörn University.

Media Appearances

Blanck, Dag, SINAS. Has participated extensively in Swedish media as an expert on American society and politics. The database Mediarkivet records 406 media appearances.

Fur, Gunlög. Interviewed for UR-Sveriges Radio, Bildningsbyrå: Documentary on Dakota leader Little Crow, June 2020.

Fur, Gunlög. Interviewed for UR – Sveriges Radio for a program for high school students on American Civil War and the consequences for Indigenous peoples, removal and dislocation.

Fur, Gunlög. Interviewed by SVT Örebro about American Indian logotypes for Swedish sports teams. Interview aired also in Västra Götaland and Småland, summer 2020.

Hjorthén, Adam. “Mayflower 2020.” Vetenskapsradion historia, Sveriges Radio P1, November 10, 2020.

Östlund, David. “David följer vetenskapens politisering hundra år bakåt i USA.” Vetenskapsradion Forskarliv, Sveriges Radio P1, November 18, 2020.

Collaborations Outside of Academia

Kane, Daniel. “Poetry and Punk Rock in New York City – A Talk by Daniel Kane.” The English Bookshop, KulturNatten Uppsala, September 10, 2020.