

Swedish Association for American Studies (SAAS)
Newsletter, Spring 2022

STATE OF THE FIELD

**American Studies in Sweden
in the year 2021**

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

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Preface to the 2022 Newsletter

This is the fourth 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 2022 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. While there was only one monograph reported, there were four edited volumes, nine journal articles, and fourteen chapters in edited volumes published last year by scholars in Sweden on American Studies topics. The lingering effects of Covid-19 can of course still 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 canceled, most notably the NAAS conference that was planned for Uppsala University in May 2021. Instead, a digital symposium was held on May 21, 2021, focusing on the aftermath of the 2020 presidential election. The next NAAS conference will be co-arranged by SAAS and SINAS and held in Uppsala in May 2023. Finally, it is worth mentioning that a new category has been added to the newsletter, ongoing research. We believe this provides an interesting insight into the work that is currently taking place in American studies in Sweden.

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, Linneaus University (Deputy Board Member)

Publications

Monographs

Backman Rogers, Anna. *Still Life: Notes on Barbara Loden's 'Wanda'*. Goleta, CA: Punctum Books, 2021.

Edited Volumes

Blanck, Dag, and Adam Hjorthén, eds. *Swedish-American Borderlands. New Histories of Transatlantic Relations*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2021.

Boyden, Michael, ed. *Climate and American Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021.

Ekelund, Bo G., Adnan Mahmutović, and Helena Wulff, eds. *Claiming Space: Locations and Orientations in World Literatures*. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021.

Stranne, Frida, ed. "Tema: Hur mår den amerikanska demokratin?" Special Issue of *Statsvetenskaplig tidskrift* 123, no. 4 (2021).

Journal Articles

Cananau, Iulian. "Critical Thinking and English Literature in Higher Education: The Theoretical Models and the Swedish Syllabi." *Nordic Journal of English Studies*, 20, no. 2 (2021): 99–128.

Frykholm, Joel. "From the Extraordinary to the Everyday: Discourses on American Quality Serial Television in Sweden's Leading Newspapers and the Breakthrough of Streaming TV." *New Review of Film and Television Studies* 19, no. 4 (2021): 462-484.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17400309.2021.1922260>

Frykholm, Joel. "Renegotiating Quality TV in the Swedish Press: American Serial Television and Sweden's Post-Monopoly Television Landscape." *Nordicom Review* 42, no. 1 (2021): 59–78. <https://doi.org/10.2478/nor-2021-0012>

Hjorthén, Adam. "Curriculum Development in American Studies: Interdisciplinarity, Student Progression, and the Swedish-American Paradox." *Högre utbildning* 11, no. 3 (2021): 76–87. <https://doi.org/10.23865/hu.v11.2943>.

Hjorthén, Adam. "Genealogy from a Distance: The Media of Correspondence and the Mormon Church, 1910–1945." *Historical Research* 94, no. 263 (February 2021): 117–135. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hisres/htaa034>.

Hjorthén, Adam. "Old World Homecomings: Campaigns of Ancestral Tourism and Cultural Diplomacy, 1945–66." *Journal of Contemporary History* 56, no. 4 (October 2021): 1147–1170. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022009420986841>.

Hjorthén, Adam. "Transatlantic Monuments: On Memories and Ethics of Settler Histories." *American Studies in Scandinavia* 53, no. 1 (2021): 95–120.

Ullén, Magnus. "The Ugly Smell of Nortoniensis: Charles Eliot Norton and Hawthorne's Civil War Romance." *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance* 67, no. 1 (2021): 39–84.

Östlund, David. "Den segregerade utbildningens paradoxer: Om rasism och intellektuell aktivism i USA:s historia." *Arr: Idéhistorisk tidskrift* 33, no. 3–4 (2021): 53–69.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

Bonnevier, Jenny. "Plan B: Single Women, Romantic Love and the Making of Babies in *The Back-Up Plan* and *The Switch*." In *Single Parents. Representations and Resistance in an International Context*, edited by Berit Åström and Disa Bergnehr. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021.

Blanck, Dag. "Academics on the Move: The Nature and Significance of a Swedish-American Academic Borderland." In *Swedish-American Borderlands. New Histories of Transatlantic Relations*, edited by Dag Blanck and Adam Hjorthén. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2021.

Blanck, Dag. "Från Yon Yohnson till Travis Bickle: Om amerikanska Sverigebilder." In *Moderniteten som framgång och tragedi. En vänbok till Lars M Andersson om ett föränderligt 1900-tal*, edited by Mattias Hessérus, Karin Kvist Geverts, Pontus Rudberg and Malin Thor Tureby. Lund: Nordic Academic Press, 2021.

Blanck, Dag. "Vårt behov av USA: Om svensk-amerikanska relationer." In *Kungl. Humanistiska Vetenskaps-Samfundet i Uppsala. Årsbok 2019-2020*, edited by Merja Kytö. Uppsala: Kungl. Humanistiska Vetenskaps-Samfundet i Uppsala, 2021.

Blanck, Dag, and Adam Hjorthén. "Introduction: Conceptualizing Swedish-American Borderlands." In *Swedish-American Borderlands. New Histories of Transatlantic Relations*, edited by Dag Blanck and Adam Hjorthén. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2021.

Ekelund, Bo G. "Introduction – Land, Language, Literature: Cosmopolitan and vernacular claims to place." In *Claiming Space: Locations and Orientations in World Literatures*,

edited by Bo G Ekelund, Adnan Mahmutović, and Helena Wulff. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021.

Ekelund, Bo G. "Sites of Solidarity and Circuits of Second-world Reading: Ralph de Boissière's *Crown Jewel* and the Locations of the Proletarian Novel." In *Claiming Space: Locations and Orientations in World Literatures*, edited by Bo G Ekelund, Adnan Mahmutović, and Helena Wulff. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021.

Harris, Ashleigh. "The Locations and Orientations of South African Literature: From Sol Plaatje to Peter Abrahams." In *Claiming Space: Locations and Orientations in World Literatures*, edited by Bo G Ekelund, Adnan Mahmutović, and Helena Wulff. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021.

Hjorthén, Adam. "Ancestral Relations: The Twentieth-Century Making of Swedish-American Genealogy." In *Swedish-American Borderlands: New Histories of Transatlantic Relations*, edited by Dag Blanck and Adam Hjorthén. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2021.

Mahmutović, Adnan. "Core: Ecologies of Muslim-American Writing." In *Claiming Space: Locations and Orientations in World Literatures*, edited by Bo G Ekelund, Adnan Mahmutović, and Helena Wulff. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021.

Ullén, Magnus. "Political Correctness in Sweden: A Borderland Conceptual History." In *Swedish-American Borderlands: New Histories of Transatlantic Relations*, edited by Dag Blanck and Adam Hjorthén. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2021.

Welge, Jobst. "Locations, Orientations and Multiple Temporalities in the Contemporary, 'Global' Latin American Novel." In *Claiming Space: Locations and Orientations in World Literatures*, edited by Bo G Ekelund, Adnan Mahmutović, and Helena Wulff. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021.

Zetterman Eva. "Crossing Literal and Conceptual Borders: *Nepantla* Practices of the Borderlands in Performance Projects by Guillermo Gómez-Peña." In *Art, Borders and Belonging: On Home and Migration*, edited by Maria Photiou and Marsha Meskimmon. London: Bloomsbury Visual Arts, 2021.

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*, edited by Le Cheng, Jianping Yang, and Jianming Cai. Singapore: Springer, 2021.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-5225-7_18

Reviews

Hjorthén, Adam. "U.S. Public History as Public Diplomacy," review of Richard J. W. Harker, *Museum Diplomacy: Transnational Public History and the U.S. Department of State* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2020). *Diplomatic History* (Online First, 2021). <https://academic.oup.com/dh/advance-article/doi/10.1093/dh/dhab091/6433087?guestAccessKey=750fab66-86e5-4109-b93a-db89aca63921>.

Ullén, Magnus. "Review of Sarah Meer. *American Claimants: The Transatlantic Romance, c. 1820–1920*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020." *The Nathaniel Hawthorne Review* 47 (2021): 171–175.

Miscellaneous

Frykholm, Joel. "Netflix, HBO Nordic, and 'Glocalized' TV Series: The View from Sweden." Short Cuts blog, *New Review of Film and Television Studies* (2021).
www.nrftsjournal.org/netflix-hbo-nordic/

Östlund, David. "Vägen från det svarta universitetet till Vita huset." *Svenska Dagbladet*, Under Strecket, January 13, 2021.

New Appointments

Cathryn Halverson, Distinguished Fulbright Chair in American Studies, SINAS, Uppsala University (2021–2022).

Adam Hjorthén. Member of the Board of Directors of the Swedish-American Historical Society (2021–2024).

Adam Hjorthén. Associate Editor of *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* (2021–).

Dissertation Defenses

Franzetti, Sindija. Epistolarity in a Post-Letter World: Five Contemporary American Case Studies. Department of English, Uppsala University, January 20, 2021. Opponent Maria Löschnigg.

Nyström, Andreas. Places of Rest in Worlds of Ruin: Havens in Post-Apocalyptic Fiction. Department of Language, Literature and Intercultural Studies (ISLI)/English, Karlstad University, April 9, 2021. Opponent Associate professor Mathias Clasen, Aarhus University, Denmark.

Funding and Awards

Hjorthén, Adam. "På vingar öfver Utah: Ella Heckscher och släktforskningens moderna historia." Åke Wiberg Foundation, project funding, 50 000 SEK.

Ongoing Research

Ekelund, Bo G. Stockholm University. “Reading for the State” project with colleagues at Stockholm University. The empirical basis for Ekelund’s research is Anglophone Caribbean fiction published between 1945 and 1975.

Gilbert, Adam. Uppsala University. The Tiger Cages and America’s Vietnam War. This project examines the wartime and postwar significances of the tiger cage controversy, a wartime scandal involving the mistreatment of Vietnamese prisoners.

Gilbert, Adam. Uppsala University. The War in Vietnam and the American Carceral State. This project maps the ways in which the war in Vietnam contributed to an increasingly potent carceral state back in the US.

Katinic, Zdravka. Karlstad University. PhD Project: no title yet. The study looks at American middlebrow fiction during the 1990s. The focus is on the cultural impact, visibility, and the struggle between identity and community.

Molander Danielsson, Karin. Mälardalen University. *The Nonhuman in American Literary Naturalism*. Ken Brandt (Savannah College of Art and Design, Georgia) and I are co-editing a volume of essays to be published by Lexington in 2023. My chapter is titled: “The Outer Animals: Non-Othered Nonhumans in McTeague.”

Molander Danielsson, Karin. Mälardalen University. A book chapter, “Ecology, Capability and Companion Species: Conflicting Ethics in Nevada Barr’s *Blood Lure*” was accepted for publication (in -22) by Palgrave in the book *Animals in Detective Fiction*.

Routledge, Laura. University of Gothenburg. Phd Project: The Avant-Garde Project of Allan Kaprow’s Happenings (Working title). This project draws upon a tradition of avant-garde scholarship that originated in Peter Bürger’s *Theory of the Avant-Garde* (1971), but that significantly amends, critiques and builds upon this influential text, in order to suggest that Kaprow’s Happenings project can be read as a sustained interrogation into the existing and potential roles of art in mid-century American society.

Thosteman, Erik. Uppsala University. PhD Project in Economic History (2021–): “The Role of History in Creating a Swedish-American Identity, ca. 1860–1920.”

Östlund, David. Södertörn University. African American Intellectual History 1876-1954: Themes and Controversies. A translation in Swedish (with extensive introduction and footnotes) of W.E.B. Du Bois’s *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903) is planned to be published during 2022.

Organized Conferences, Seminars, and Lectures

“American Studies in the Nordic Countries.” Online Ph.D. student workshop, organized by SAAS, NAAS, and SINAS, October 22, 2021.

Ecocollapse Fiction and Cultures of Human Extinction. Guest lecture by author Sarah E. McFarland, Zoom, organized by Ecocritical Forum, Mälardalen University, October 21, 2021.

SINAS Research Seminars, a monthly Zoom-based seminar series for works-in-progress in American Studies at SINAS, Uppsala University. Ten seminars were offered during 2021, with Saniya Ghanoui, Jasmin Kelekay, Nadi Tofighian, Adam Gilbert, Frida Stranne, Adam Kaul and Margaret Farrar, Joel Frykholm, Francesca Bratton, Johan Höglund, and Sebastian Jobs. Main organizer: Adam Hjorthén.

“The American Dilemma 2020: Nine Lessons for Healthy Democracies.” Guest lecture by Lance Bennett (University of Washington), at SINAS, Uppsala University, January 19, 2021.

“Transatlantic Memories: History Activism, Heritage, and Diplomacy across the Atlantic World.” International workshop with 17 participants arranged via Zoom, November 4–5, 2021. Organized by Adam Hjorthén (Uppsala University), Sönke Kunkel and Leonie Werle (Free University of Berlin).

Presentations and Lectures

Blanck, Dag. Address at Vilhelm Mobergsällskapetets årsmöte, August 2021.

Blanck, Dag. Presentation of “Swedish-American Borderlands.” Embassy of Sweden, Fall 2021.

Blanck, Dag and Adam Hjorthén. “Swedish-American Borderlands: New Histories of Transatlantic Relations.” The Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (SASS), virtual conference, May 5–14, 2021.

Frykholm, Joel. “Exploring Hollywood’s Role in Swedish Film Culture in the Silent Era from a New Archival Horizon; or, On Slush(Cinematic and Other).” Lund University Film and Media History Seminar, Lund/Zoom, Sept 22, 2021.

Frykholm, Joel. "Re-Reading the Swedish Agitation against American Cinema in the 1920s through the Eyes of the US Government." SINAS Research Seminar, Uppsala/Zoom, Sept 27, 2021.

Gilbert, Adam. "American Carcerality and the War in Vietnam." Historians of the Twentieth Century United States 2021 Annual Conference, June 7, 2021.

Gilbert, Adam. "The Tiger Cages in American History and Memory." Research Seminar, Swedish Institute for North American Studies, Uppsala University, April 26, 2021.

Gilbert, Adam. "The Tiger Cages and the American War in Vietnam." Research Workshop, Department of English, Uppsala University, January 7, 2021.

Holmgren Troy, Maria. "Reading Octavia Butler's Speculative Neo-slave Narrative *Wild Seed* (1980) after #MeToo." Specific 2021: Time and History Conference, Karlstad University, December 1–3, 2021.

Karinic, Zdravka. "Invisibility in the Intersectional Ecology: Danzy Senna's *Caucasia*." SSAWW Triennial Conference: American Women Writers: Ecologies, Survival, Change, Baltimore, MA, USA, Nov 4-7, 2021.

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 20th Century Literature (7.5 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).

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, 1919 to the Present (7.5 credits). M.A. and Ph.D.-level, Department of Language, Literature and Intercultural Studies, Karlstad University.

Language in context (15 credits.) Undergraduate (200 level), Mälardalen University. (Includes a component of American history.)

English 2, Literature 2 (7.5 credits). Undergraduate (200-level), Mälardalen University.

American literature and Ecocriticism (7.5 credits). Undergraduate (300-level), Mälardalen University.

American Fiction after 1945 (7.5 credits). Undergraduate (third-semester), Department of English, Stockholm University.

Klassikerläsning: Ruth Benedict & Margaret Mead (Reading classics in Intellectual history: Ruth Benedict & Margaret Mead) (7.5 credits). B-level, Intellectual history (idéhistoria), Södertörn University. fall semester 2022.

In/Equality in American Culture and Society (7 credits). English, Örebro University.

Media Appearances

Blanck, Dag, SINAS. Has participated extensively in Swedish media as an expert on American society and politics. The database Mediearkivet records 135 media appearances.

Adam Hjorthén. “Dust Bowl-katastrofen: Depressionens dödliga dammstormar.” Historiska väder, Sveriges radio P1, September 4, 2021.

Adam Hjorthén. “DNA revolutionerar släktforskningen.” Vetenskapsradion historia, Sveriges radio P1, May 4, 2021.

Judith Kiros. “ #134 ”Toni Morrison.” *Bildningspodden*, September 22, 2021.

Collaborations Outside of Academia

Dag Blanck and Adam Hjorthén. “Swedish-American Borderlands: New Histories of Transatlantic Relations,” Book talk (via Zoom) at the Swedish Embassy in Washington, DC, October 15, 2021.

Adam Hjorthén. Author of texts for the new permanent exhibit on Swedish emigration to the United States, “Det nya landet: Drömmen om Amerika,” at The House of Emigrants, Smålands Museum, Växjö (opened in October, 2021).

Adam Hjorthén. “Hur mår Amerika? Demokrati och rasrelationer i dagens USA.” Lectures for Rotary Ladugårdsgärdet and PRO Malmö, May 2021.

Adam Hjorthén. “Din amerikanska okända släkting: Från emigration till folkrörelse.” DIS-Öst, March 24, 2021.

Judith Kiros. Lecture on Octavia Butler. Umeå library, October 9, 2021.