

Swedish Association for American Studies (SAAS)
Newsletter, Spring 2024

STATE OF THE FIELD

American Studies in Sweden
in the year 2023

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

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Preface to the 2024 Newsletter

This is the sixth 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 March and April 2024 through the help of association members who responded to a call for contributions.

The year 2023 was the year of *The Nordic Association for American Studies’ 27th Biennial Conference*, held in Uppsala, which was a very successful event. Keynote speakers were Kristin Hoganson, the Stanley S Stroup Professor of United States History at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and Imre Szeman, the inaugural Director of the Institute for Environment, Conservation and Sustainability and Professor of Human Geography at the University of Toronto Scarborough. Approximately 140 participants from all the Nordic countries as well as Europe, the USA and Canada, presented in plenary lectures, panel sessions and roundtables, and contributed to building a community around American Studies.

Some of the Swedish presentations are listed in the following pages, as are presentations from other events, as well as public lectures and university courses. The newsletter also provides a record of edited volumes, journal articles, several chapters in edited volumes, and other publications by SAAS-members and other Swedish scholars in our field during 2023. Although the newsletter thus holds a large number of posts, it is shorter than last year’s, probably not due to a lack of activity, but to the fact that fewer scholars responded to this year’s call. We want the newsletter to be a fair reflection of the field, both in terms of who you are, and what you are doing, so don’t forget to share. The newsletter editors would also be very happy to receive ideas for how we can make it easier and more convenient for SAAS-members to contribute. Please email Jenny or Karin with your suggestions!

Jenny Bonnevier, President of SAAS and Karin M Danielsson, Vice President of SAAS.

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The SAAS board 2022-2024

Jenny Bonnevier, Örebro University (President)
Karin Molander Danielsson, Mälardalen University (Vice-President)
Chloé Avril, University of Gothenburg (Treasurer)
David Östlund, Södertörn University (Secretary)
Kim Khavar Fahlstedt, Örebro University
Fredrik Svensson, Gävle University
Erik Thosteman, Uppsala University
Leyla Bella Drake, Uppsala University (Deputy Board Member)
Sindija Franzetti, Chalmers University of Technology (Deputy Board Member)

Publications

Edited Volumes

Brandt, Kenneth K and Karin M Danielsson, eds. *The Nonhuman in American Literary Naturalism*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2023.

Åström, Berit and Jenny Bonnevier, eds. *Kinship in the Fiction of N.K. Jemisin: Relations of Power and Resistance*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2023.

Journal Articles

Bonnevier, Jenny. "In the Womb of Utopia: Feminist Science Fiction, Reproductive Technology, and the Future." *American Studies in Scandinavia*, 55, no. 1 (2023): 70-93.

Troy, Maria Holmgren. "Body Horror in Octavia E. Butler's Clay's Ark." *Humanities*, 12, no. 5 (2023): 120. <https://doi.org/10.3390/h12050120>

Chapters in Edited Volumes

Backman Rogers, Anna. "You can't go deaf to women's voices': Feminism and the Films of Sofia Coppola." In *The Bloomsbury Handbook to Sofia Coppola*, edited by Suzanne Ferriss. London, Bloomsbury, 2023.

Backman Rogers, Anna. "Barbara Loden's *Wanda* (1970): A Radically Negative Feminist Aesthetic." In *Women and New Hollywood: Gender, Creative Labor, and 1970s American Cinema*, edited by Aaron Hunter and Martha Shearer. New Jersey, Rutgers University Press, 2023.

Bonnevier, Jenny and Berit Åström. "Introduction: Speculative Fiction, Critical Kinship Studies, and the Fiction of N.K. Jemisin." In *Kinship in the Fiction of N.K. Jemisin: Relations of Power and Resistance*, edited by Berit Åström and Jenny Bonnevier. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2023, 1-22.

Bonnevier, Jenny. "Kinship Matters: Bodies and Power in N.K. Jemisin's Inheritance Trilogy." In *Kinship in the Fiction of N.K. Jemisin: Relations of Power and Resistance*, edited by Berit Åström and Jenny Bonnevier. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2023, 25-43.

Bonnevier, Jenny. "Making Babies and Making Home in an All-Female World: Reproduction, Sexuality and Belonging in Nicola Griffith's Ammonite." In *Populating the Future: Families and Reproduction in Speculative Fiction*, edited by Britt Johanne Farstad. Gävle: Kriterium/Gävle University Press, 2023, 37-56.

Danielsson, Karin M. "The Outer Animals: Non-Othered Nonhumans in *McTeague*." In *The Nonhuman in American Literary Naturalism*, edited by Kenneth K Brandt and Karin M Danielsson. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2023, 13-29.

Grimbeek, Marinette. "Girls Making Families: Agential Assemblage in Nnedi Okorafor's Speculative Fiction." In *Populating the Future: Families and Reproduction in Speculative Fiction*, edited by Britt Johanne Farstad. Gävle: Kriterium/Gävle University Press, 2023, 199-55.

Grimbeek, Marinette. "Monstrous Kin in N. K. Jemisin's *Broken Earth Trilogy* and Nnedi Okorafor's *The Book of Phoenix*." In *Kinship in the Fiction of N. K. Jemisin: Relations of Power and Resistance*, edited by Berit Åström and Jenny Bonnevier. Lanham, MD: Lexington, 2023, 177-96.

Reviews

Danielsson, Karin M. Review of Interrogating Boundaries of the Nonhuman: Literature, Climate Change and Environmental Crises, edited by Mathias Stephan and Sune Borkfelt. *Green Letters; Studies in Ecocriticism*, March (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1080/14688417.2023.2194134>

Hjorthén, Adam. Review of Exhibiting the Foreign on U.S. Soil: American Art Museums and National Diplomacy Exhibitions Before, During, and After World War II by Kathleen Berrin. *Diplomatic History* 47, no. 3 (June 2023): 551–554. <https://doi.org/10.1093/dh/dhad002>

Sundman, Alice. Review of *The Bloomsbury Handbook to Toni Morrison*, by Kelly L. Reames and Linda Wagner-Martin (editors). *Contemporary Women's Writing*, 17, no. 2 (July 2023): 237–238. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cww/vpad016>

New Appointments

Danielsson, Karin M. Associate professor in English with specialization in literature, Mälardalen University, June 2023.

Hjorthén, Adam. Associate professor in history, Uppsala University, April 2023.

Funding and Awards

Backman Rogers, Anna. *Lana Del Rey: An Iconography* to be published with Bloomsbury in 2026. Riksbanken Sabbatical, 1 496 700 SEK.

Hjorthén, Adam, *Refracting Roots: Swedish American Heritage and Political Identification in Contemporary United States*. Sven och Dagmar Saléns stiftelse, 50 000 SEK.

Hodgson, Lucia. *New Sweden Texas: Swedish Settlers and Slavery in Nineteenth-Century Texas*. Swedish Research Council, 3 099 000 SEK.

Thosteman, Erik, Visiting scholar at University of Chicago 2024. Jan Wallander och Tom Hedelius Stiftelse, 125 000 SEK.

Östlund, David. *Diversity and Democracy: Cultural Pluralist Philosophy, Cultural Relativist Science, and Intercultural Education Confront Racist USA, 1915-1958*. [Mångfald och demokrati: kulturpluralistisk filosofi, kulturrelativistisk vetenskap och interkulturell pedagogik konfronterar rasismens USA 1915-1958] Marcus och Amalia Wallenbergs minnesfond, 3 200 000 SEK.

Ongoing Research in American Studies

Fur, Gunlög, *Borderlands of Swedish-Indigenous Encounters - Swedes and American Indians in North America, 1840s-1930s*. Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, 2023-2024.

Hjorthén, Adam (together with Adam Kaul), *Refracting Roots: Swedish American Heritage and Political Identification in Contemporary United States*.

Hjorthén, Adam, "A More Perfect Union?" Public Scholarship and the United States Constitution in a Polarized Society.

Katinić, Zdravka, *HypheNation: A study of the Bildungsroman and American identity in six American minority novels from the 1990s* [tentative title].

Troy, Maria Holmgren, Adaptations of Octavia E. Butler works.

Conferences, seminars, and lectures

Blanck, Dag, Jenny Bonnevier, Marie Bennedahl, Adam Hjorthén, Kim Khavar Fahlstedt, Erik Thosteman. "Crisis and Turns: Continuities and Discontinuities in American Culture", *The Nordic Association for American Studies 27th Biennial Conference*, Uppsala, Sweden, May 25-27, 2023.

Danielsson, Karin M. "Noticing the Birds and the Bears: Narrative Studies of Nonhuman Characters". Docent lecture, Mälardalen University, 12 June 2023.

Fur, Gunlög. Workshop: "Nordic Sources to North American Indigenous Histories," Swedish Ethnographic Museum, May 23-24, 2023.

Hjorthén, Adam, "Transatlantic Memories: The New Sweden Colony, the Norse Discovery of America, and the Ethics of Settler Histories," Department of Human Geography, Uppsala University, March 17, 2023.

Conference presentations

Bonnevier, Jenny and Berit Åström, "Selfless Servers, Weapons in Waiting: Androids Parenting Human Children in *Raised by Wolves* and *I am Mother*" *Virtual International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts: AAAA!: AI, Algorithms, Automata and Art*, November 5-11, 2023.

Bonnevier, Jenny, "I Live the City: Emerging Radical Kinship Connections in N.K. Jemisin's *The City We Became*" *International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts 44th Annual Conference*, Orlando, FL, March 15-18, 2023.

Bonnevier, Jenny, "Kin-Making is World-Making: The Hominid Ecologies of *Shora*" *Crises and Turns: Continuities and Discontinuities in American Culture*, The Nordic Association for American Studies 27th Biennial Conference, Uppsala University, May 25-27, 2023.

Fur, Gunlög, "Building a New Scandinavia on Indigenous Land," (Swedish keynote) *Crises and Turns: Continuities and Discontinuities in American Culture*, The Nordic Association for American Studies 27th Biennial Conference, Uppsala, May 24-27, 2023.

Grimbeek, Marinette, "Dormant Agency: The Temporalities of Seeds" *Crises and Turns: Continuities and Discontinuities in American Culture*, The Nordic Association for American Studies 27th Biennial Conference, Uppsala, Sweden, May 25-27, 2023.

Hjorthén, Adam “Teaching American Studies in the Nordic Countries: A Roundtable,” with Rani-Henrik Andersson, Jenny Bonnevier, Cassandra Falke, and Kasper Grotle Rasmussen. *The Nordic Association for American Studies 27th Biennial Conference*, Uppsala, May 25-27, 2023.

Hjorthén, Adam, “Dining with Friends: A History of Swedish-American Commemorations,” *75th anniversary of the Swedish-American Historical Society*, Chicago, IL, October 20, 2023.

Hjorthén, Adam. “Refracting Roots: Swedish Heritage and Political Identification in Contemporary United States” presentation at roundtable on “Polarization and the Past”, hosted by the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan (via Zoom) October 31, 2023.

Hodgson, Lucia, “New Sweden Texas: Swedish Settlers and Slavery in Nineteenth-Century Texas” *SASS: Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study*, Austin, TX, April 20-22, 2023.

Hodgson, Lucia, “S. M. Swenson, the Civil War, and Popular Mythologies of Sweden and Texas” *Crises and Turns: Continuities and Discontinuities in American Culture*, The Nordic Association for American Studies 27th Biennial Conference, Uppsala, Sweden, May 25-27, 2023.

Katinić, Zdravka, “Why can't I see myself, feel where I end and begin: Embodiment through writing in Sapphire's Push” *NeMLA*, Niagara Falls, March 23-26, 2023.

Thosteman, Erik. “By Swedes, for Swedes: The cultural economy of Swedish-American publishing in Chicago, 1860-1880” *The Nordic Association for American Studies 27th Biennial Conference*, Uppsala, Sweden, May 25-27, 2023.

Troy, Maria Holmgren, “Adapting Octavia E. Butler’s *Kindred* in the Twenty-First Century,” *Crises and Turns: Continuities and Discontinuities in American Culture*, The Nordic Association for American Studies 27th Biennial Conference, Uppsala University, Sweden, May 25-27.

Courses and Teaching

Karlstad University

Science Fiction and Intercultural Encounters, advanced level, ISLI/English, 7.5 credits. This course includes seminars on American SF written by H.P. Lovecraft, Ray Bradbury, Joanna Russ, Octavia E. Butler, Nnedi Okorafor, and Jeff Vandermeer.

Women Writers' Science Fiction and Fantasy, advanced level, ISLI/English, 7.5 credits. This course includes seminars on SF and fantasy written by Ursula K. Le Guin, Octavia E. Butler, Kelly Link, and Nnedi Okorafor.

Mälardalen University

American Literature and Ecocriticism, C-level, UKK: Languages and Literature, 7,5 credits.

Narrative and Theory, Advanced level, UKK: Languages and Literature, 7,5 credits. Course literature includes works by U.S. scholars and authors Porter H Abbott, James Phelan, Toni Morrison, and others.

Södertörn University

Historieskrivning som politik: svart erfarenhet och sanningen om USA, 1619-2023 (Historiography as Politics: Black experience and the truth about the USA, 1619-1923). Masters level course in intellectual history. School of Historical and Contemporary Studies, 7,5 credits.

University of Gothenburg

Literary Studies – Specialization course focused on Contemporary American Literature, C-level, 7,5 credits.

Uppsala University

All courses at SINAS/Department of English

Introduction to American History, A level, 7,5 credits.

Introduction to American Politics, A level, (campus + distance), 7,5 credits.

Race and Ethnicity in the United States, A level, 7,5 credits.

American Media Cultures, A level, 7,5 credits.

Global American History, B level, 7,5 credits.

Current Issues in American Politics, B level, 7,5 credits.

Memory and Heritage in American Culture, B level, 7,5 credits.

Current Research in American Studies, B level, 7,5 credits

Collaborating on Crisis Studies in Sweden and the United States: Problem-Solving through Digital Technologies, online course together with Augustana College, Illinois, A level, 7,5 credits

Understanding the United States: Central Issues in American Society, MA level, 7,5 credits,

Swedish-American Relations in Historical and Contemporary Perspectives, MA level, 7,5 credits

Örebro University

In/Equality in American Culture and Society, BA-level. English, 7 credits.

Imagining Futures: Speculative Fiction, BA-level, English, 7.5 credits. (American authors.)

Contemporary Fantasy Fiction, BA-level, English, 7.5 credits. (About 50% American authors.)

Media appearances and Other contributions

Media Appearances

Hjorthén, Adam. “Amerikanska inbördeskriget,” UR, Historia fördjupat, december 2023.

Hjorthén, Adam. “Amerikanska delstater överdrev sin svenska koppling,” Vetenskapsradion nyheter, Sveriges Radio P1, 2 april 2023.

Hjorthén, Adam. “Svenska kolonialfiaskot i Nordamerika som blev en framgång 300 år senare,” Vetenskapsradion på djupet, Sveriges Radio P1, 1 april 2023.

Sundman, Alice. “Love in Toni Morrison,” November 11, 2023, in *Love and Its Discontents*, produced by Adnan Mahmutovic, podcast, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRNhiUM3i3g>.

Collaborations Outside of Academia

Hjorthén, Adam. “Abortion Rights in the United States: The U.S. Supreme Court and the End of Roe v Wade” Fryshuset gymnasium, September 20, 2023

Hjorthén, Adam. “USA efter mellanårsvalet,” Rotary-Glunten, Uppsala, 31 januari 2023

Other

Hjorthén, Adam. Invited faculty reviewer at “50% seminar,” Erik Thosteman, PhD candidate in Economic History, the Department of Economic History, Uppsala University, December 4, 2023.

Hjorthén, Adam. elected member of the Executive Council, Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (SASS; 2023–2027)

Östlund, David. A Swedish translation of W.E.B. Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903): *Svart folks själar: Essäer och skisser*, with extensive introductory materials.