

NAAS 2023



CRISES AND TURNS

CONTINUITIES AND DISCONTINUITIES

IN AMERICAN CULTURE

Uppsala, May 25-27, 2023

**SA
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Uppsala, May 25-27, 2023

**Welcome to the biennial conference of the Nordic Association for American Studies 2023: Crises and turns:
Continuities and Discontinuities in American Culture!**

The conference organizing committee is thrilled to welcome you to the beautiful city of Uppsala and to Uppsala University for what we hope will be an engaging, inspiring, and challenging few days of discussion and exchange among new and old friends and colleagues. The organizing committee consists of representatives from the Swedish Association for American Studies and the Swedish Institute for North American Studies at Uppsala University, and we want to express our gratitude to the Nordic Association for American Studies for entrusting us with arranging this important forum for Nordic and international American studies scholars.

When we first formulated the conference theme – Crises and Turns: Continuities and Discontinuities in American Culture – we were preparing for NAAS 2021 and the US was just entering the election year of 2020. The theme, we believed, was relevant to the American experience under Obama and Trump, and we thought it was likely to remain so for some time. Then the Covid pandemic struck, and NAAS 2021 became NAAS 2023. Suddenly, “crisis” took on new connotations and “discontinuity” made itself felt in unexpected ways. Now, as we finally get to meet in Uppsala, we find the theme as relevant as it was in 2020 and experience of the time that has passed bears out the co-existence of disruption and intensification that the call for papers suggested. While many things have changed, many also remain the same. The papers and sessions that make up this conference all address aspects of continuities and discontinuities in important ways and we are excited to be hosting such a rich event.

A conference is always the result of many people contributing in numerous ways. One form of contribution is financial. We want to express our gratitude to those who have contributed in this way: Axel Wenner-Gren Foundation, Magnus Bergvall’s Foundation, the English Department at Uppsala University, the US Embassy in Sweden, and Uppsala Municipality.

However, the sine qua non of any conference are its participants. Our heartfelt thanks go to you, too. Thank you for generously sharing your knowledge and curiosity. A special thank you goes to our keynote speakers, Imre Szeman and Kristin Hoganson.

Again: A warm welcome to Uppsala and to the NAAS 2023 conference!

Jenny Bonnevier, SAAS

Dag Blanck, SINAS

Marie Bennedahl, SAAS

Adam Hjorthén, SINAS

Kim Khavar Fahlstedt, SAAS

Erik Thosteman, SAAS



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Conference Program

THURSDAY MAY 25 (DAY 1)

- ❖ 8.30 - 9.00 Registration ([Outside Ihresalen](#) [the Ihre lecture hall], English Park Campus)
- ❖ 9.00 - 9.15 Welcome ([Ihresalen](#))
- ❖ 9.15 - 10.30 Keynote Lecture: "The Future of the Sun" Imre Szeman ([Ihresalen](#))

10.40-11.00 Break: Coffee/tea in [Blåsenhus foyer](#) (Campus Blåsenhus)

- ❖ 11.00 – 12.30 Panel session I

Panel Ia: "The More-than-Human in Contemporary American Culture I"
(Room: [12:129](#))

Chair: Brian Attebery, Idaho State University

"The Bacon Factory: On Animal Labor in Zoo Games"

Erik van Ooijen, Karlstad University

"Making Kin with Mushrooms"

Sofia Wijkmark, Karlstad University

"Service Animals, Companion Species, Kin: Challenges to Human Exceptionalism in Sue Burke's *Semiosis*"

Berit Åström, Umeå University

Panel Ib: "Life During Wartime: Immigrant Communities and Identity Formation" (Room: [12:130](#))

Chair: Julian Cananau, Gävle University

"Nationalism, Industrial Capitalism and Identity Formation in a Time of War- Swedish Immigrants in the Cross Current of Americanization and Class Politics, 1916-1919"
Jimmy Engren, Örebro University

"Finnish Americanism on Sugar Island, Michigan: Integration or Parallel Society?"

Saara Kekki, University of Helsinki

"S. M. Swenson, the Civil War, and Popular Mythologies of Sweden and Texas"

Lucia Hodgson, Linnaeus University

Panel Ic: "Plantation Americas, Past and Present: Culture, Histories, and Politics of the Plantation, I" (Room: [12:229](#))

Chair: Helen Gibson, University of Erfurt

"Intimacy and Distance as a Formal Problem in Plantation Literature"

Bo G. Ekelund, Stockholm University

"Cracks in the Rainbow: Hawai'i's Plantation Legacy in Poetry"

Sally Anderson-Boström, Independent Scholar

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“Post Plantation Era and Post Hawthorne: An Abandoned Plantation and a Literary Blackface Performance as Chronotopes of Sexual/Textual Transgression in Julia Peterkin’s *Scarlet Sister Mary*”

Anna Linzie, Karlstad University

Panel Id: “Contested Landscaped” (Room: [12:230](#))

Chair: Yael Ben-zvi, Ben-Gurion University

“Contested Landscapes: Continuities and Discontinuities in the Significance of the Black Hills in Arikara History”

Mark van de Logt, Texas A&M University at Qatar

“Contested Landscapes (part 2): Ĥesápa (Black Hills) as a Lakǰóta Ceremonial Complex”

Rani-Henrik Andersson, University of Helsinki

“‘Another Star on the Flag:’ Attempts to Create an Indigenous State”

David Wilkins, University of Richmond

Panel Ie: “Cycles of Injustice” (Room: [12:231](#))

Chair: Tuula Kolehmainen, University of Turku

“The Exclusion and Incarceration of Japanese Americans, 1942-1945: A Case Study on the Conflict between Civil Liberty and National Security”

Daniel Cseh, Eötvös Loránd University

“American History as “an endless cycle of injustice”: Helping Young Readers Engage with the Past in George Takei’s Graphic Memoir *They Called Us Enemy*”

Chloé Avril, University of Gothenburg

“Adapting Octavia E. Butler’s *Kindred* in the Twenty-First Century”

Maria Holmgren Troy, Karlstad University

12.30-13.30 Lunch ([Segerstedt Building](#))

❖ 13.30 – 15.00 Panel session 2

Panel 2a: “The More-than-Human in Contemporary American Culture II”

(Room: [12:129](#))

Chair: Erik van Ooijen, Karlstad University

“Kin-Making is World-Making: The Hominid Ecologies of Shora”

Jenny Bonnevier, Örebro University

“Dormant Agency: The Temporalities of Seeds”

Marinette Grimbeek, Örebro University

“Everyone has done Everything to Everyone Else: The New Earth and the Demands of the Entangled Present”

Zlatan Filipovic, University of Gothenburg

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Panel 2b: “Female Perspectives” (Room: [12:130](#))

Chair: Scott Laderman, Uppsala University

“Exclusion and Exoticization: The Continuity of Fetishizing Asian Women”
Eileen Chung, Texas Woman’s University

“Black Blossoms: Nature and the End of Time in American War Poetry”
Ron Ben-Tovim, Ben-Gurion University

Panel 2c: “Plantation Americas, Past and Present: Culture, Histories, and Politics of the Plantation, II” (Room: [12:229](#))

Chair: Sally Anderson-Boström

“Spiritual Breath in Granny Midwifery”
Helen Gibson, University of Erfurt

“Hollywood’s Plantation Preoccupation: *Antebellum & The Underground Railroad*”
Lee Flamand, Ruhr University Bochum

“The Chesapeake Rebellion and BaKongo Cosmology”
Ryne Beddard, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Panel 2d: “Land Rights” (Room: [12:230](#))

Chair: Chloé Avril, University of Gothenburg

“States’ Rights and Settler Memory: The Struggle over Criminal Jurisdiction in Indian Country in the 1950s and Today”
Reetta Humalajoki, University of Turku

“Environmental Discourse and Agency Roles on Social Media Representations of Stand with Standing Rock Environmental Movement”
Minna Pajunen, University of Helsinki

“The Gifting of Bois Blanc Island: Affect, Continuities, and Possibilities”
Yael Ben-zvi, Ben-Gurion University

Panel 2e: “American Dreams and Realities: Mobilities and the Contradictions of Meritocracy” (Room: [12:231](#))

Chair: Dag Blanck, Uppsala University

“Cascading Moments and the Threat of Downward Mobility”
Karen V. Hansen, Brandeis University

“Economic Disparities between Adult Siblings in the US and Sweden: Explaining Within Family Inequalities”
Nazli Kibria, Boston University

“Everyday Exposure to Inequality and the Causal Impact of Facts: Experimental Evidence from the United States and the Netherlands.”
Jonathan B. Mijs, Boston University (paper read by Claire Hou, Brandeis University)

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15-15.30 Coffee/tea ([Blåsenhus foyer](#))

❖ 15.30-17.00 Panel session 3

Panel 3a: “Modern and Contemporary Experimental American Poetry”

(Room: [12:129](#))

Chair: Joel Duncan, University of Konstanz

“Poetic Drive at a Standstill: William Carlos Williams, Frank O’Hara, and Claudia Rankine”

Joel Duncan, University of Konstanz

“Translating the Translator: Enacting Don Mee Choi’s Anti-Necolonial Poetry in Swedish”

Jennifer Hayashida, University of Gothenburg

“Personal Injury between the New York Schools and L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E”

Daniel Kane, Uppsala University

Panel 3b: “America at War” (Room: [12:130](#))

Chair: Alf Thomas Tønnessen, University of Agder

“Is America Destined to Be in a State of Permanent War?”

Frida Stranne, Halmstad University

“A New Kind of Witness: Vietnam-Era Military Dissent and the Emergence of the Moral Perpetrator”

Leyla Bella Drake, Uppsala University

“Krig för dörren: Swedish American Newspapers and the United States’ Involvement in the First World War”

Gregory Gaines, University of Maine

Panel 3c: “Continuity and Origins of Contemporary Racial Politics” (Room:

[12:229](#))

Chair: John F. Moe, Ohio State University

“African American Vernacular and Folk Art Culture: Examining Black Expressive Folk Culture and Attitudes about Inclusion and Exclusions During and After World War II”

John F. Moe, Ohio State University

“Zora Neale Hurston v. Richard Wright: The Politics of Representation”

Tina Parke-Sutherland, Stephens College

Panel 3d: “Pandemic Aftermaths” (Room: [12:230](#))

Chair: Cathryn Halverson, Södertörn University

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“Exorcising Covid in Queens Near Corona Park.’ Tropes of Discontinuity in Andrei Codrescu’s Poems of the Plague”
Iulian Cananau, University of Gävle

“Walden for All: From Thoreau to Mental Health in Environmental Justice Activism”
Jessica Conrad, Clayton State University

“We Should Stay at Home, but the Streets Are Calling: Stasis vs. Change in American COVID Literature”
Marta Fernández-Morales, University of Oviedo

Panel 3e: “Transcultural Interactions” (Room: [12:231](#))

Chair: Reetta Humalajoki, University of Turku

“Truth is Our Secret Weapon: The Office of War Information in Stockholm, 1942-1944”
Dag Blanck, Uppsala University

“By Swedes, for Swedes: The cultural economy of Swedish-American publishing in Chicago, 1860-1880”
Erik Thosteman, Uppsala University

“Shades of Black: Exercising Racial Options in Early 20th-Century America”
Paul Spickard, University of California, Santa Barbara

- ❖ 17.15-18.15 Plenary Lecture I: Marianne Kongerslev: “A Symphony of Anger: Slam Poetry, Ceremonial Rage and the Poetic Undercommons” ([Eva Netzeliussalen](#))

19.00-20.30 Conference Reception (Universitetshuset [Main University Building])

FRIDAY MAY 26 (DAY 2)

8.15-8.30 Coffee/tea ([Blåsenhus foyer](#))

- ❖ 8.30-9.30 Plenary Lecture II: Sami Lakomäki “Of Dancing and Other Documents: Indigenous Archives, Colonial Records, and Histories of Imperial Warfare in North America” ([Eva Netzeliussalen](#))

9.30-10.00 Coffee/tea ([Blåsenhus foyer](#))

10.00 – 11.30 Panel session 4

Panel 4a: “America on Film” (Room: [12:129](#))

Chair: Joel Frykholm, Stockholm University

“The United States through Its Oriental Other: Hollywood’s Sheiks as a Measure of Discontinuities in American Culture”
Sara el-Majhad, Aix-Marseille University

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“Crises of Intimacy – Semantics of Love in the Digital Age”
Karin Hoepker, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

“The Movies and You: The Postwar Attempts to Keep Audiences Interested in Hollywood”
Elisabeth Castaldo Lundén, Linnaeus University

Panel 4b: “American Dream Revisited” (Room: [12:130](#))
Chair: David Östlund, Södertörn University

“Hidden Hillbillies: How and Why Progressive Appalachians are Obscured in the Cyclical American Imagination”
Ellie Griffiths, University of Nottingham

“Dystopian American Capitalism and The Crisis of the American Dream: The Case of Saul Bellow’s *Mr. Sammler’s Planet*”
Hamid Masfour, Sultan Moulay Slimane University

“The Way Forward: The Push from Decolonization to Indigenization of Museum Spaces”
Sonja Salminiitty, University of Helsinki

Panel 4c: “Enslavement, Race, and the South” (Room: [12:229](#))
Chair: Richard Hardack, Independent scholar

“What the Slaves Saw: Murder as Political Crisis in the Old South”
Kathleen M. Hilliard & Lawrence T. McDonnell, Iowa State University

“The Crisis of Civil War, Enslaved Children’s Resistance, and the Meanings of Emancipation”
Ben Davidson, Saint Michael's College

“Ella: Mother, Minstrel, Martyr”
David Goldfield, University of North Carolina

Panel 4d: “Ecocriticism and Naturalism” (Room: [12:230](#))
Chair: Annika J. Lindskog, Lund University

“‘like a frog’: Environmental Crisis and Deep Ecologies in the Poetry of Emily Dickinson and Edna St. Vincent Millay”
Mateusz Kucab, Jagiellonian University

“The Entrepreneurial Self in the Progressive Era”
James Dorson, Freie Universität Berlin

Panel 4e: “Teaching American Studies in the Nordic Countries: A Roundtable Discussion” (Room: [10:203/Laborativa lärosalen](#))
Chair: Adam Hjorthén, Uppsala University

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Panelists:

Kasper Grotle Rasmussen, University of Southern Denmark

Rani-Henrik Andersson, University of Helsinki

Jenny Bonnevier, Örebro University

Cassandra Falke, UiT - The Arctic University of Norway

❖ 11.45 – 13.15 Panel session 5

Panel 5a: “Precarious Labor” (Room: [12:129](#))

Chair: Karin Hoepker, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

“White Working-Class Sorrow: Addressing the Need for Nuanced Representation Through Ron Howard’s Hillbilly Elegy”

Henriette Rørdal, University of Bergen

“Chloé Zhao’s *Nomadland*: The 21st Century Deindustrialization Film”

Mikkel Jensen, Aalborg University

“Crises for the American University?: Continuities and Discontinuities in Issues of Labor and Head Injury in Collegiate Athletics”

Noah Cohan, Washington University in St. Louis

Panel 5b: “Otherness and Tolerance” (Room: [12:130](#))

Chair: Lawrence T. McDonnell, Iowa State University

“National Brotherhood Week and its Opponents: Liberalism and the Universalization of Difference”

Seth Epstein, Uppsala University

“What a Terror a Body Must Live Through”: The Threat of the Trans Body in Catherine Lacey’s *Pew*”

Elliott Berggren, Linnaeus University

Panel 5c: “Apocalyptic Imaginaries” (Room: [12:229](#))

Chair: Jennifer E. Attebery, Idaho State University

“Cannibalizing Continuities: Narrative Crises and the Undead”

Steffen Wöll, Leipzig University

“Geopolitics in American Fiction about the Planetary Emergency”

Johan Höglund, Linnaeus University

“Learning to Laugh at the Bomb: *Dr. Strangelove* (1964) and Service Comedies”

William Glass, University of Warsaw

Panel 5d: “American Studies 2.0” (Room: [12:230](#))

Chair: Ellie Griffiths, University of Nottingham

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“Moving through American Studies: Utilizing Dance as a Pedagogical Approach”
Jen Atkins, Fulbright Norway

“Black Feminism as Epistemological and Pedagogical Strategy for American Studies”
Debjani Chakravarty, University of Utah

“American Culture, Transnational Concerns, and Postliberal Aesthetic: A Renewal?”
Tijana Przulj, University of Bergen

Panel 5e: “Nordic Settlers and Indigenous Peoples: Entanglements and Reverberations: A Roundtable Discussion” (Room: [10:203/Laborativa lärosalen](#))
Chair: Gunlög Fur, Linnaeus University

Panelists:

Magdalena Naum, Aarhus University

Lindsay E. Doran, University of Eastern Finland

Gwen Westerman, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Mikal Eckstrom, Independent Scholar

Sigrid Lien, University of Bergen

Karen V. Hansen, Brandeis University

13.15-14.15 Lunch ([Segerstedt Building](#))

❖ 14.15-15.45 Panel session 6

Panel 6a: “Post-Roe America” (Room: [12:129](#))
Chair: Ben Davidson, Saint Michael's College

“Reproductive Sanctuaries and Deserts in Post-Roe United States”
Benita Heiskanen, University of Turku

“Time Travel and the U.S. Supreme Court: *Dobbs*, *Roe*, and the Return to the 1950s”
James McBride, New York University

”The New McCarthyism(s)?”
Jodie Childers, Independent Scholar

Panel 6b: “Sensationalism, Journalism, Activism” (Room: [12:130](#))
Chair: Jørn Brøndal, University of Southern Denmark

“Small-Town Sensationalism: Two Indiana Newspapers Deal with a Serial Killer”
Ulf Jonas Björk, Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis

“‘Fuck yer guns’: Political imagination and femininity in the anti-gun protest Betsy Riot”
Mila Seppälä, University of Turku

“Conceptualizing Crises: The Antagonistic Antifeminism of PragerU”
Pekka M Kolehmainen, University of Turku

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Panel 6c: “African American Experiences” (Room: [12:229](#))

Chair: David Goldfield, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

“*The Woman’s Era: By Black Women, For Black Women, and the Power of Connection*”

Elisabeth Gonzales, Independent Scholar

“‘It’s my life to see and enjoy’: Juanita Harrison among the Bohemians”

Cathryn Halverson, Södertörn University

“An Exception to Exceptionalism: Subverting National Narratives of Race in Johnson, Ellison and Morrison”

Richard Hardack, Independent Scholar

Panel 6d: “Religion and Identity” *NOTE the time: 14.15-15.55!*

(Room: [12:230](#))

Chair: Jimmy Engren, Örebro University

“Whose Christian Nation? The Failed Separation of Church and State and the Desire for Pure Origins in the United States “

Whitney Harper, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

“Crossing ‘Our Country’ to the Salt Lake: Mormon Otherness as a Foil for Immigrant Whiteness”

Philipp Gollner, Goshen College

“Before the Deluge: The U.S. Christian Right and Gay Rights in the 1940s through the 1970s”

Markku Ruotsila, University of Helsinki

“Language Ideologies in Immigrant Churches: Continuity and Discontinuity in Swedish-American Lutheran Congregations”

Angela Hoffman, Uppsala University

Panel 6e: “Post Crisis” (Room: [12:231](#))

Chair: Cassandra Falke, UiT - The Arctic University of Norway

“The Towers are Still Falling: A “Slant” Approach to Analyzing Literature after 9/11”

Margrét Ann Thors, University of Iceland

“(Re)imagining 9/11 events through Designated Survivor (2016–2019)”

Rabeb Touihri, Eötvös Lorand University

“Post-Cold War Presidential Rhetoric of Crisis”

Marta Kobylska, University of Rzeszów

Panel 6f: “Transimperial Lives: Rethinking Nordic Settler Experiences in North America” ([Room: 10:203/Laborativa lärosalen](#))

Chair: Janne Lahti, University of Helsinki

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“Nordic Colonial Durabilities: Gustaf Nordenskiöld, Mesa Verde, and the Settler Colonization of the American Southwest”

Janne Lahti, University of Helsinki

“Transnational Media Cultures: Uncle Tom’s Cabin and Race Relations in Swedish-American Communities”

Åsa Bharathi Larsson, Södertörn University

“The Last Frontier: Class, Civilization and Settler Colonialism among Scandinavians in the American Southeast”

Anders Bo Rasmussen, University of Southern Denmark

15.45-16.15 Coffee/tea ([Outside lhresalen](#), English Park Campus)

- ❖ 16.15-17.30 Keynote Lecture II: Kristin Hoganson “The Tell-Tale Heart: Reconsidering the Mythical Core of the Nation in Light of the Turn to the Global” ([lhresalen](#))
- ❖ 17.30-18.45 NAAS General Meeting ([lhresalen](#))

19.45 Conference dinner ([Norrlands nation](#))

SATURDAY MAY 27 (DAY 3)

8.30-9.00 Coffee/tea ([Blåsenhus foyer](#))

- ❖ 9.00-10.00 Plenary Lecture III: Gunlög Fur “Building a New Scandinavia on Indigenous Land” ([Eva Netzeliussalen](#))
- ❖ 10.30-12.00 Panel session 7

Panel 7a: “West of the Rest: (Dis)continuities in Very Old, Old, New, and Digital Wests” (Room: [12:129](#))

Chair: Stefan Rabitsch, University of Oslo

“Achievement Unlocked: Manifest Destiny”: Paleontology, Extinction, and the Re-Making of the American Nation in the Red Dead Redemption Games”

Michael Fuchs, University of Innsbruck

“Working Cowhorses of the American West: A Horseback Ethnography of Contemporary Cattle Ranching”

Andrea Petitt, Uppsala University

“Outside this valley, who knows that we’re even here?”: Land(ed) Necrocapitalism and Post-Western (Dis)continuities in Taylor Sheridan’s *Yellowstone*”

Stefan Rabitsch, University of Oslo

Panel 7b: “Cultural Identities” (Room: [12:130](#))

Chair: Sonja Salminiitty, University of Helsinki

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"Aliens Among Us; or, How to Live with a Billion Other Subjects"
Philip E. Wegner, University of Florida

"A Sense of "Home": The Gay Community in San Francisco in the 1970s"
Sahra Dahl Christensen, University of Southern Denmark

"Pop Culture Pluralism: Chicanos and Chicanas Reimagining Americana"
Anthony Macías, University of California, Riverside

Panel 7c: "Black Lives Matter" (Room: [12:229](#))

Chair: Paul Spickard, University of California, Santa Barbara

"Spaces of Humility: Black Lives Matter and the Removal of Confederate Monuments in the Cultural Landscape"
David Jansson, Uppsala University

"Renewing Phillis Wheatley, Rewriting America and Black Poetry"
Malin Pereira, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

"Making Racists Small: Innocent, Tendentious, and Cynical Jokes in the *Bodega Boys* Podcast"
Jeden O. Tolentino, Queen's University

Panel 7d: "Revolutionize This! Climate, Crisis, War and Migration" (Room: [12:230](#))

Chair: Niels Bjerre-Poulsen, University of Southern Denmark

"Climate Migration and "White Affect": *The Grapes of Wrath* and *The Ministry for the Future*"
Bryan Yazell, University of Southern Denmark

"Revolution Narratives in between the US, Texas and Mexico"
Anne Magnussen, University of Southern Denmark

"We Are the Asteroid: Reading *Armageddon* and *Don't Look Up* as Climate Emergency Allegories"
Rune Graulund, University of Southern Denmark

"The most dangerous thing around"? The Representation of Women Soldiers in U.S. "War on Terror" Novels"
Thomas Ærvold Bjerre, University of Southern Denmark

Panel 7e: "Deterritorialized Crisis and Discontinuous Homes" (Room: [12:231](#))

Chair: Graça Capinha, University of Coimbra

"'Everything good is somewhere else': Ocean Vuong's *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*"
Gonçalo Cholant, University of Coimbra

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“Pataqueric Models of Representation: (Re)imagining Communities”
Graça Capinha, University of Coimbra

“Narratives of Undocumentedness and the Notion of Affective Belonging”
Maria José Canelo, University of Coimbra

12.00-13.00 Lunch ([Segerstedt Building](#))

❖ 13.00-14.50 Panel session 8

Panel 8a: “Historiography and Method” (Room: [12:129](#))

Chair: Adam Hjorthén, Uppsala University

“‘Woven with Traditional Memory’: Ghost River and the Politics of History, Mediality, and Archives”
Scott Zukowski, University of Graz

“Uncoordinated Cooperation: Developing a funding history of American Studies in Sweden.”
Christin Mays, Uppsala University

“The Structure of Feeling: Continuities and Discontinuities in the Use of Raymond Williams’ Concept in Times of Crises in and beyond American Studies”
Sandra Becker, Utrecht University

“‘The Revolution of 1800’ Revisited: An Analysis of Patterns of Congressional and State Legislation, 1789-1809”
Max Edling, King's College London

Panel 8b: “Freedom Caucus” (Room: [12:130](#))

Chair: David Jansson, Uppsala University

“Forms of Life and Right-Wing Readers: Notes Towards a New Mode of Inquiry”
Johs Rasmussen, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Literary Framings of a Disunited America: Representing Maps of Polarity in Lynn Nottage’s *Sweat* (2015) and Ayad Akhtar’s *Homeland Elegies* (2020)”
Teresa Botelho, Nova University of Lisbon

“Populism, Popular Culture, and the Rightwing Mindset: Making Sense of My Son Hunter (2022)”
Joel Frykholm, Stockholm University

Panel 8c: “The Politics of (Dis)Place(ment): Memory, Truth, and Travel”
(Room: [12:229](#))

Chair: Rune Graulund, University of Southern Denmark

“Crises in the Arctic: Upheavals in the Memoir of Josephine Diebitsch-Peary”
Clara Juncker, University of Southern Denmark

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“Inside the Machine in the Garden: Danish Travel Writers’ Experiences of Nineteenth-Century U.S. Landscapes from the Vantage Point of the Passenger Train”
Jørn Brøndal, University of Southern Denmark

“Presidential Libraries, Collective Memory, and the Politics of Site-selection”
Niels Bjerre-Poulsen, University of Southern Denmark

“The Georgia Guidestones and the New World Order: Conspiracy Theories About Globalism, Depopulation, and Climate Change”
Kasper Grotle Rasmussen, University of Southern Denmark

Panel 8d: “Change and Conservatism in Higher Education” (Room: [12:230](#))
Chair: Johan Höglund, Linnaeus University

“‘Professors are the Enemy’: Attacks on Academic Freedom in Historical Perspective”
Susan Hegeman, University of Florida

“War, Education, and Military Training in American Society in the ‘Interwar’ Period”
Masako Hattori, National University of Singapore

“Using or Refusing the Gifts of the Many? Democracy, Cultural Pluralism and Intercultural Education 1924-1954”
David Östlund, Södertörn University

Panel 8e: “Narratives, Selves, Emotions” (Room: [12:231](#))
Chair: Benita Heiskanen, University of Turku

“‘As Far as My Father Could Take Me’: Sonhood in Autobiographical Works of Bill Cosby and Richard Pryor”
Tuula Kolehmainen University of Turku

“Karen Joy Fowler’s Critique of American Continuities in *Booth* (2022)”
Jennifer Eastman Attebery, Idaho State University

“Crises and Turns in 1950’s Fiction: Hope vs. Despair”
Sanna Melin Schyllert, Paris 3 - Sorbonne Nouvelle & Annika J. Lindskog, Lund University

14.50-15.20 Coffee/tea ([Blåsenhus foyer](#))

- ❖ 15.20-16.20 Plenary Lecture IV: Asbjørn Grønstad “On the Persistence of Murray Bookchin’s Eco-Philosophy” ([Eva Netzeliussalen](#))
- ❖ 16.30 Closing remarks

Keynote lectures

❖ Kristin Hoganson

Kristin Hoganson is the Stanley S. Stroup Professor of United States History at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her publications include *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars* (1998), *Consumers' Imperium: The Global Production of American Domesticity, 1865–1920* (2007), *The Heartland: An American History* (2019) and two volumes co-edited with Jay Sexton: *Crossing Empires: Taking U.S. History into Transimperial Terrain* (2020) and *The Cambridge History of America and the World, vol. 2, 1820–1900* (2021). She is a past president of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) and the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (SHGAPE) and is currently researching imperialist infrastructure building at the dawn of the big carbon era.



”The Tell-Tale Heart: Reconsidering the Mythical Core of the Nation in Light of the Turn to the Global”

The heartland myth holds up the small town and rural Midwest as the quintessentially all-American place. Celebrants regard the heartland nostalgically, believing that it is under siege; critics associate it with exclusionary and small-minded impulses. Love it or hate it, Americans tend to regard the heartland as local, insulated, isolationist, and provincial; as the ultimate national safe space. This talk considers how local histories that look both in and out can challenge such conceptions, helping us to root U.S. history more deeply in global history and to counter imperial denial.



❖ Imre Szeman

Imre Szeman is the inaugural Director of the Institute for Environment, Conservation and Sustainability and Professor of Human Geography at the University of Toronto Scarborough. He is co-founder of the Petrocultures Research Group, which explores the socio-cultural dimensions of energy use and its implications for energy transition and climate change, and the leader of After Oil, a collective which has produced *After Oil* (West Virginia University Press, 2016) and *Solarities: Seeking Energy Justice* (University of Minnesota Press, 2022). He is author (most recently) of *On Petrocultures: Globalization, Culture, and Energy* (WVUP, 2019) and is working on *The Future of the Sun*, a book detailing corporate and state control of the transition to renewables

“The Future of the Sun”

The Future of the Sun” assesses claims being made about the best approach to energy transition and the shape of the renewable world that lies just over the horizon. Nation-states and entrepreneurs are offering publics competing visions of energy and environmental futures, even as right-wing ideologues fight to ensure the future looks much like the past. This paper will provide an account of the discursive struggles now being fought to establish (in the words of Bill Gates) “the dull, factually correct middle” in which our green futures are supposed to be lived out.

Plenary Lectures

- ❖ Gunlög Fur, Professor of History, Linnaeus University

“Building a New Scandinavia on Indigenous Land”

We have become accustomed to thinking about our own time as one of rapid and persistent change, almost always for the better in terms of comfort and material wealth, while the past is often painted as a placid river slowly moving towards the rapids of the present. But humans and other living beings have tackled abrupt transformations also in the past, throwing order, recognition, and balance to the winds. One such period occurred in the decades around the turn of the century 1900, when, in less than a generation, huge numbers of European immigrants found new land and new opportunities in North America, while First Americans (Indigenous peoples) saw everything that was familiar crumble. These developments became acutely visible as Indian reservations were opened for non-Indigenous settlement in the late 1880s and into the early 20th century. This coincided with a peak in Nordic emigration and scores of Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, and later Finnish migrants took the opportunity to settle on Indigenous land. This lecture begins to tell the story of how migrants from the Nordic countries found a New Scandinavia, as the author Fredrika Bremer had envisioned in 1848, in Minnesota and surrounding territories by fencing, farming, irrigating, building, logging, railroading on land, lakes, and rivers that were home to Ojibwe, Dakota, and many other peoples. Just as rapidly, the story demonstrates, these Indigenous peoples found themselves in entirely new and dislocating circumstances and they had to devise strategies, practices, and relations to manage land encroachment, timber theft, loss of biodiversity, starvation, illnesses, and humiliation in their own territories. This story is a beginning, thus far much too one-sided, that offers an invitation to tie threads of experiences and agencies together into a weave that exposes responsibilities, consequences, and lasting entanglements in this history of crisis and change in the American heartland.

- ❖ Asbjørn Grønstad, Professor of Visual Culture, University of Bergen

“On the Persistence of Murray Bookchin’s Eco-Philosophy”

In my talk, will consider the lasting significance of the political theory of American philosopher and historian Murray Bookchin. Building upon Lewis Mumford’s *Technics and Civilization* (1934), Bookchin was a pioneer of environmental studies. Beginning with his first book *Our Synthetic Environment* (1962), Bookchin wrote about issues of *social ecology* (a term coined E. A. Gutkind, a German architect and urban planner). In works such as *Post-Scarcity Anarchism* (1971), *The Ecology of Freedom* (1982), *Remaking Society* (1990), and *The Politics of Social Ecology* (1997), Bookchin married critical theory to a denunciation of capitalism, which he regarded as more detrimental to the health of the environment than both overpopulation and technology. For Bookchin, a major task for an ecologically-oriented politics is to transform society on a fundamental, structural level; something which he argues can be accomplished through implementing democratic confederalism – a radical model of political self-organization. While Bookchin’s ideas vastly influenced the New Left, the anti-nuclear movement, as well as the anti-globalization movement, his work seems somewhat under-appreciated today. In my lecture, I propose that Bookchin’s eco-philosophy remains if anything even more relevant for the challenges of the contemporary moment. The talk will consist of two main parts. In the first, I discuss Bookchin’s lingering influence on current experiments in direct democracy through the example of Rojava in Northern Syria. In the second part, I suggest that Bookchin’s political philosophy might be seen as a much needed alternative to the hegemonic position of global neoliberalism.

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- ❖ Marianne Kongerslev, Associate Professor of American literature and culture, Aalborg University

” A Symphony of Anger: Slam Poetry, Ceremonial Rage and the Poetic Undercommons”

In recent books such as Soraya Chemaly’s *Rage Becomes Her: The Power of Women’s Anger* (2018), Brittney Cooper’s *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower* (2018), and Myisha Cherry’s *The Case for Rage* (2021), to name a few, the authors suggest fury and rage as effective and affective strategies of feminist rebellion. Often centered around the 2016 Presidential Election, these books point to a temporal and emotional peak in women’s fury, an epoch that white actress and writer Amber Tamblyn calls *Era of Ignition* (2019). Similarly, the feminist slogan ‘Nevertheless, she persisted,’ popularized after a 2017 Senate debate, resonated with many American women; it seemed to echo a deep sense of embitterment. These words have been printed on mugs, t-shirts, banners, and even tattooed on women’s bodies, illustrating the appeal of angry refusal to a feminist ethos. However, this angry resistance is an old phenomenon. As Sara Ahmed states in “Snap!” (2017), “We could think of feminist history as a history of snappy women, a history of women who have leaked all over the place. What comes out of our own mouths might come out of a history; we have, as it were, other snaps behind us.” This lecture explores the newness of and tradition behind a contemporary cultural and literary phenomenon that is especially suited to angry women: slam poetry. By tracing the way that emotions flow through multiple slam poems, primarily focusing on women of color poets, the lecture explores how rage becomes ceremonial, intensified and enhanced with each performance in a way that resonates with broader feminist concerns. Especially young poets of color mobilize anger and spiteful sarcasm to underscore how they are no longer “in the mood,” to borrow Ahmed’s phrase. These poet’s fury constitutes a feminist “snap”—a moment of rupture, when something becomes too much, or rather when something appears to become too much. Mobilized deliberately and optimistically, the fury of the poets is meant to upset, to cause a rupture within the system, continuing the tradition of women employing anger as a political tool.

- ❖ Sami Lakomäki, University Lecturer of Cultural Anthropology, University of Oulu

“Of Dancing and Other Documents: Indigenous Archives, Colonial Records, and Histories of Imperial Warfare in North America”

As a large French army was marching south from Canada to take possession of the Ohio Valley in 1753, the Virginian government sent William Trent to the area to encourage local Indigenous nations to side with the British in the escalating imperial conflict. Many Native communities did not share the anxiety of Trent and his employers, however. The Shawnees, for example, declined Trent’s invitations to urgent negotiations and, according to the frustrated Virginian, “seem[ed] to think of Nothing else but their dancing.”

Trent’s journal opens a window into what is widely considered a major turning point in North American history, the outbreak of the Seven Years’ War. It also offers us a rare opportunity to see different people, working under very dissimilar worldviews and epistemologies, engaged in the construction of what for the lack of a better term might be called “the past.” Inspired by Trent’s unintentional juxtaposition of two disparate projects of past-making, I explore how pasts were conceptualized, produced, and engaged by Indigenous and colonial communities engulfed in imperial warfare in North America during the long eighteenth century. I also address a more profound issue: how does the past-making of Trent, his Shawnee hosts, and their Native and colonial contemporaries shape our production of North American histories today?

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Good to know

About the Conference Venue

Uppsala University uses the interactive [Maze Map](#). Links to this map have been sent out via email and can be found on the conference website ([naas2023.com](#)). You find the room you're looking for by simply writing the name of the room or room number in the search field.

- ❖ Keynotes are held in [Ihresalen](#) (the Ihre lecture hall) at Campus Engelska parken (The English Park Campus).
- ❖ Plenary lectures are held in [Eva Netzelius-salen](#) (Eva Netzelius lecture hall) at Campus Blåsenhus.
- ❖ Paper sessions and panels are held at Campus Blåsenhus. Rooms are specified in the program.

About Meals and Social Events

All meals are included in the registration fee. Lunches are served buffet-style and include vegetarian and vegan options. Dietary needs specified in the registration form are accommodated.

- ❖ Coffee/tea is served [outside of the Ihre lecture hall](#) in connection with the keynotes and in [the foyer of Campus Blåsenhus](#) on other occasions.
- ❖ Lunch is served in [the restaurant in the Segerstedt building](#), across the yard from Campus Blåsenhus (on the other side of the road von Kraemers allé)
- ❖ The conference reception on Thursday evening is held in the [University Main Building](#) (Universitetshuset).
- ❖ The conference dinner on Friday evening is held in a “nation” – the student associations that are at the heart of Uppsala student life: [Norrlands nation](#), on Västra Ågatan 14.



Campus Blåsenhus and English Park Campus are situated in a beautiful part of Uppsala, surrounded by the Botanical gardens. Take some time to enjoy spring in Uppsala! There is a link to a map of Uppsala's highlights on the conference website.

If You Have Questions

There is a registration desk that is open Thursday, 8.30-12.00 (am) and Friday, 8.30-11.00 (am) that you can contact about practical concerns. There are conference hosts in connection with the session rooms and lecture halls who can help with basic technical support, give directions and so on. The conference email (naasinfo2023@gmail.com) will be monitored throughout the conference.

We look forward to an exciting conference!

Share your experiences on social media, using **#naas2023**

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Program overview

Thursday, May 25

- ❖ Registration and conference welcome ([lhresalen](#))
- ❖ Keynote lecture: Imre Szeman ([lhresalen](#))
- ❖ Session 1

More-than-human I (12:129)	Life during Wartime (12:130)	Plantation Americas I (12:229)	Contested Landscapes (12:230)	Cycles of Injustice (12:231)
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- ❖ Lunch
- ❖ Session 2

More-than-human II (12:129)	Female Perspectives (12:130)	Plantation Americas II (12:229)	Land Rights (12:230)	American Dreams & Realities (12:231)
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- ❖ Session 3

American Experimental Poetry (12:129)	America at War (12:130)	Racial Politics (12:229)	Pandemic Aftermaths (12:230)	Transcultural Interactions (12:231)
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- ❖ Plenary lecture: Marianne Kongerslev ([Eva Netzelius-salen](#))
- ❖ Conference reception ([Universitetshuset](#))

Friday, May 26

- ❖ Plenary Lecture: Sami Lakomäki ([Eva Netzelius-salen](#))
- ❖ Session 4

America on Film (12:129)	American Dream Revisited (12:130)	Enslavement, Race, and the South (12:229)	Ecocriticism and Naturalism (12:231)	Teaching American Studies (10:203/Laborativa lärosalen)
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- ❖ Session 5

Precarious Labor (12:129)	Otherness and Tolerance (12:130)	Apocalyptic Imaginaries (12:229)	American Studies 2.0 (12:230)	Nordic Settlers & Indigenous Peoples (10:203/Laborativa lärosalen)
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- ❖ Lunch
- ❖ Session 6

Post-Roe America (12:129)	Sensationalism, Journalism, Activism (12:130)	African American Experiences (12:229)	Religion and Identity (12:230)	Post Crisis (12:231)	Transimperial Lives (10:203/Laborativa lärosalen)
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- ❖ Keynote lecture: Kristin Hoganson ([lhresalen](#))
- ❖ NAAS General meeting ([lhresalen](#))
- ❖ Conference dinner ([Norrlands nation](#))

Saturday, May 27

- ❖ Plenary lecture: Gunlög Fur ([Eva Netzelius-salen](#))
- ❖ Session 7

West of the Rest (12:129)	Cultural Identities (12:130)	Black Lives Matter (12:229)	Revolutionize This! (12:230)	Deterritorialized Crisis (12:231)
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- ❖ Lunch
- ❖ Session 8

Historiography and Method (12:129)	Freedom Caucus (12:130)	The Politics of (Dis)Place(ment) (12:229)	Education: Change & Conservatism (12:230)	Narratives, Selves, Emotions (12:231)
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- ❖ Plenary lecture: Asbjørn Grønstad ([Eva Netzelius-salen](#))
- ❖ Closing remarks

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NAAS 2023 Conference BINGO

Technology failure	Presenters in session outnumber listeners	You are in the wrong room	Presenter reads without looking up once
Presenter goes blatantly over time	"This is a two-part question"	Someone in session working on paper	Female scholar gets mansplained
Gratuitous use of Latin	10 tweed jackets	Presenter reads directly from Power Point slides	Someone falls asleep
Locked out of the room/building	Comic sans or Papyrus in presentation	Question completely about speaker's own project	Someone reaches 100+ posts on #naas2023

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We wish to thank our sponsors: Axel Wenner-Gren Foundation, Magnus Bergvall's Foundation, The English Department at Uppsala University, The US Embassy in Sweden, and Uppsala Municipality!



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