

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## SASS CONFERENCE 2013

MAY 2-4, 2013

SAN FRANCISCO HILTON HOTEL  
FINANCIAL DISTRICT

Those interested in presenting paper at this year's conference are invited to submit a proposal to [sass2013@berkeley.edu](mailto:sass2013@berkeley.edu) by **30 November 2011**. Proposals should include the following:

- participant's name
- participant's affiliation (if applicable)
- a title and 200-word abstract
- 4-5 keywords to help place papers in panels (examples of helpful keywords: autobiography, children's literature, drama; *not* as helpful: period or nationality)
- an indication if the participant would like for his or her proposal to be considered for one of the conference thematic streams (see below) or a special panel, and if so, which paper format is preferred. (As usual, papers will be considered for acceptance as part of the general proposal pool if no stream or special panel is indicated— participation in the streams is not mandatory.) Organizers of pre-constituted single-session panel proposals should include a panel topic abstract along with their individual paper proposals, along with a list of the other contributors.
- email and contact information
- A/V requests for the presentation are due along with the proposal on November 30. Late requests cannot be guaranteed.

All presenters at the SASS Conference, US domestic and foreign, must be members in good standing at the time of the conference. For membership information, please consult the SASS website (<http://www.scandinavianstudy.org/>).

Experiments with alternative presentation formats (“flash” panels of six 10-minute papers, roundtable discussions, workshops, poster sessions) are welcome within stream sessions or in pre-constituted panels, but not in the general pool of conference papers. Stream or panel organizers will have the responsibility of deciding on a consistent format for each session. Submissions of more than one abstract by the same conference participant will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may have to be rejected due to limitations of meeting space.

Graduate students are welcome to submit proposals when supported by a brief letter of endorsement from an academic advisor. The name of the advisor should be included in the student's proposal, but the advisor's letter should be sent separately as an e-mail to conference organizers and should comment on the readiness of the student and project for presentation.

WELCOME TO SAN FRANCISCO IN 2013!

## THEMATIC STREAM PROPOSALS:

Building on the efforts at the 2012 conference to provide thematic multi-session threads of discussion, the 2013 conference organizers have invited the SASS membership to submit proposals for thematic streams, topics that can be expected to attract related proposals spanning several related panel sessions and that would benefit from a gathered summary discussion. The proposed stream topics listed below are those that have been received from the membership. Any of these topics that attract a sufficient number of paper proposals may be chosen as a stream for the conference; if the interest from the SASS membership turns out to be more limited and specialized, the conference organizers reserve the right to constitute the streams differently or organize submitted papers into separate panels.

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### STREAM #1: STATE OF THE FIELD

Recent unprecedented structural changes in university life and an upcoming generational shift in the field of Scandinavian Studies makes it imperative to think creatively about the ways in which we teach and research the fields of study represented within SASS. We do not often have the opportunity to think through these issues in a structured way with our SASS colleagues, so this stream encourages proposals for papers, workshops, and roundtable discussions dealing with a range of "state-of-the-field" issues. These might include:

- workshops on successful syllabi for literature, culture, and history courses
- new ideas for integrating Humanities and Social Science aspects of Scandinavian Studies curricula
- measuring academic "viability" in our fields of study
- advocacy strategies, local and national
- changes in academic publishing
- professional development training for junior faculty

Clearly, this stream will involve a different kind of presentation than does the usual research paper, but the topic encourages a frank conversation about where we now, and the positive directions in which we might be headed with a little concerted forethought and collaborative strategizing. Position papers followed by discussion or roundtable panels would be especially effective for this stream, and because of the importance of this topic for the future of SASS, we would like to encourage SASS participants to consider proposing a short contribution to this stream in addition to more substantial research papers presented elsewhere on the conference program.

One panel suggestion for this stream has already been suggested by the Society of Historians of Scandinavia, and if you are specifically interested in this section of the stream, please indicate that on your proposal:

"Technology, Budgets, Methods, and the Future of Teaching Scandinavian Studies"  
Organizers: Society of Historians of Scandinavia (Jason Lavery ([jason.lavery@okstate.edu](mailto:jason.lavery@okstate.edu)) and Nancy L. Wicker ([nwicker@olemiss.edu](mailto:nwicker@olemiss.edu))) In this session, we'd like to focus on philosophical and applied aspects of what we are teaching in Scandinavian area studies as well as how we are teaching it. We seek proposals that consider the future of teaching Scandinavian courses and the very

viability of our fields when many universities face budget cuts. We encourage participation from faculty members at colleges and universities with Scandinavian studies programs as well as those without such dedicated programs. Some questions and topics that might be considered include: How can we balance popular courses on topics such as the Vikings with small enrollment specialties? How can teaching the large enrollment course create interest for other Scandinavian offerings? How can we incorporate Scandinavian topics into more general European courses and integrate Scandinavia Studies into our curricula more generally? What are new approaches to teaching Scandinavian studies? How is distance-education currently being used in Scandinavian studies? Will other models of outreach courses such as MOOCs (massively open online courses) be useful for teaching Scandinavian studies? Is this a positive or a negative development for us? Should we worry about a future when only one course on the Vikings or on Ibsen, for instance, might be taught in this country and distributed to all who are interested? How do we justify to university administrators our teaching in Scandinavian studies? We are soliciting ideas for a “flash” panel of six ten-minute papers to leave time for discussion. If there is sufficient interest, we would like to support two sessions, perhaps one on pedagogy and another on the future of the field.

General questions about this stream should be directed to Mark Sandberg ([sandberg@berkeley.edu](mailto:sandberg@berkeley.edu)) or Tom DuBois ([tadubois@wisc.edu](mailto:tadubois@wisc.edu)), but proposals should be submitted directly to the conference organizers at [sass2013@berkeley.edu](mailto:sass2013@berkeley.edu) by November 30, 2012.

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## STREAM #2: SCANDINAVIAN CRIME FICTION

In recent years, the international interest in Scandinavian crime fiction has grown tremendously. Authors like Stieg Larsson, Henning Mankell, Karin Fossum, Jo Nesbø, Arnaldur Indriðason, Leena Lehtolainen, and Jussi Adler-Olsen – together with television series like *The Bridge* and *Wallander*, and films like *Insomnia* and *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* – are now familiar to readers and viewers over the world. For many people crime fiction is thus an important source of knowledge about Scandinavia today. Additionally, crime fiction is a growing and important topic of academic research and teaching, something that has also been shown by an increasing number of crime fiction panels at previous SASS conferences. Crime fiction studies is to a great extent an interdisciplinary research field with contributors from both the Humanities and the Social Sciences. This stream wants to bring together Scandinavian Studies scholars with a wide range of approaches to the field, in order to promote a multifaceted discussion of Scandinavian crime fiction.

Paper proposals including, but not limited to, the following topics are encouraged:

- contemporary Scandinavian crime writers and novels
- Scandinavian crime fiction history
- Scandinavian crime fiction and genre issues
- Scandinavian Crime fiction and gender
- the portrayal of Scandinavian society in crime fiction
- film and television adaptations of Scandinavian crime novels

- the translation of Scandinavian crime fiction
- crime fiction publishing and marketing
- the reception of Scandinavian crime fiction in the U.S.
- comparative studies of Scandinavian crime fiction
- comparative studies of Scandinavian and Anglo-American crime fiction

The panels of this stream will consist of traditional (four fifteen-minute or three twenty-minute) research-based conference papers. Questions about this stream should be directed to Kerstin Bergman ([Kerstin.Bergman@litt.lu.se](mailto:Kerstin.Bergman@litt.lu.se)), but proposals should be submitted directly to the organizers at [sass2013@berkeley.edu](mailto:sass2013@berkeley.edu) by November 30, 2012.

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### STREAM #3: DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Digital methods in the Liberal Arts have shifted from being a sideshow to a central act in the scholarly engagement with human culture. Though humanists and social scientists have used computation in their work for many decades, the amount of both digitized data and degree of algorithmic sophistication makes the present moment a crucial one for bringing together expertise and exchange of ideas in this area. Since our field studies nations with high levels of technical development and strong investments in large-scale digital cultural heritage projects, we face a special challenge in ensuring our methodologies are sophisticated enough to tackle a coming flood of Nordic “big data.” As part of the 103rd Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies, we are soliciting proposals on the subject Digital Humanities, broadly considered. We anticipate any of the following focus areas would be appropriate, and also welcome other topics and approaches as relevant:

- Literary and linguistic text mining
- Digital folkloristics /computation for cultural heritage domains
- Stylometrics
- GeoSpatial / GIS / digital cultural mapping
- Digital multimodal / new media studies
- Algorithmic image analysis/ film analysis
- TEI, XML, and other forms of semantic markup
- Digital editions or online scholarly editions
- Corpus query engines / information retrieval for cultural analytics
- Digital humanities, pedagogy, and the college curriculum
- Corpus linguistics / Internet linguistics
- Computational linguistics / Natural language processing
- Computational social media analysis
- Consumer platforms and new modes of reading, viewing, listening, and translating content
- Digital methods in the humanities, arts, and social sciences
- Theories of digital humanities and critical inquiry into the quantification of humanities research

- Tutorials and introductory information presentations suitable also for those with an interest in learning more about Digital Humanities but who have limited experience in the area.
- We also encourage proposals from researchers in Computer Science, Informatics, and Statistics, with the caveat that such presentations frame their work with a clear connection to the Nordic Humanities, Social Sciences, or the Arts.

These papers will be assembled into an in-conference seminar, or Topic Stream, which links multiple papers on this topic. We anticipate a variety of formats for the panels in the Digital Humanities Stream and ask that contributors clearly specify which format they are most interested in, though we cannot guarantee that all requests can be accommodated.

- Traditional: four 15-minute papers or three 20-minute papers
- Flash: six ten-minute papers
- Poster: visual displays on board or computer monitor
- Roundtable: discussion on a subtopic, or summary panel

We expect to draw on submissions to the Digital Humanities Stream for a subsequent peer-reviewed publication, either as a special issue of a journal, an edited collection, or as an open-access web-publication. We encourage interested participants to reference ways in which they foresee developing their conference contribution into a possible publication. Send 500-word abstracts with a short biographical note by November 30 to Peter Leonard [pleonard@gmail.com](mailto:pleonard@gmail.com); Cissi Oversdotter Alm [coagla@rit.edu](mailto:coagla@rit.edu), Tim Tangherlini [tango@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:tango@humnet.ucla.edu), or Anna Stenport [aws@illinois.edu](mailto:aws@illinois.edu). A copy should also be sent to the conference committee at [sass2013@berkeley.edu](mailto:sass2013@berkeley.edu).

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#### STREAM #4: FOCUS ON “NORDATLANTEN”

In an international context the “North Atlantic” covers the Atlantic Ocean north of the equator. In a Nordic context, the term is used far more exclusively, denoting Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands—and sometimes even Coastal Norway from Finnmark in the north to Rogaland in the south, and Svalbard, as the region is defined by NORA (Nordic Atlantic Cooperation), an intergovernmental organization under the Nordic Council of Ministers. It is generally believed that shared characteristics, common challenges, and historical, institutional and cultural links bind the region together. However, one might argue that in reality the conditions are so different that the idea of a particular region might seem a mere construction. Does “Nordatlanten” exist outside the Nordic Council of Ministers’ initiatives and as more than a symbolic location like *Nordatlantens Brygge* (the North Atlantic House) in Copenhagen? It is the intention of this stream to bring together researchers with insight into one or more of the region’s areas, in order to shed light on this concept “The (Nordic) North Atlantic”. Papers within all areas of humanities and social sciences, geography etc. are welcome, but should focus on aspects of collective identity.

The stream will consist of a number of panels of three fifteen-minutes’ papers – leaving time for both questions and a discussion of the regional perspective at the end of each panel. Questions about this stream should be directed to Kirsten Thisted ([thisted@hum.ku.dk](mailto:thisted@hum.ku.dk)), Malan Marnersdóttir ([MalanM@setur.fo](mailto:MalanM@setur.fo)) or Elisabeth Oxfeldt ([elisabeth.oxfeldt@iln.uio.no](mailto:elisabeth.oxfeldt@iln.uio.no))

but proposals should be submitted directly to the conference organizers at [sass2013@berkeley.edu](mailto:sass2013@berkeley.edu) by November 30, 2012.

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### STREAM #5: ARCTIC STUDIES

Proposals are invited for a set of 15 or 20-minute papers that critically address the concept of ‘The Arctic’ in multiple historical and contemporary representational forms, including art, film, media, and literature, and extending to other cultural, historical, or social forms as well. This approach is based on the assumption that aesthetic, political, economic and scientific interests in ‘The Arctic’ always have been intertwined. We are especially interested in papers analyzing, and challenging, the ways in which ‘The Arctic’ has been perceived and constituted as imaginary, mythic, intangible, and on the verge of disappearance in the wake of ice-melting, or, how notions of a Global North is often collapsed into a totalised whole, eliding the vast cultural, linguistic, historical and political differences that define the Arctic worlds and their equally varied forms of representation. We would like to take account of these circumstances by emphasizing phenomena and actions of “writing back.” We invite papers dealing both with the entire region, and with individual or comparative case studies. Furthermore, we would like to address the question if ‘The Arctic’ is a relevant concept at all: in which contexts is it valid as geographical, political, or imaginary entity and which actors and institutions contribute to its shaping? In this stream, we seek to engage scholars working in the rapidly growing field of Arctic Studies, broadly conceived, and who draw on scholarly, personal, and/or professional expertise from the Global North, including North America, the Nordic Countries, and Russia. With this stream, we seek to reach as broadly as possible across constituencies and disciplines, and especially welcome papers that engage one or more of the following keywords: Aesthetics; Colonialism; Digital; Ecocriticism and the Environment; Exploration; Geopolitics; Gender; Globalization; Indigeneity (Inuit and Saami); Landscape; Transnationalism; Whiteness (snow/ice; ethnicity). Questions about this stream should be directed to Anna Stenport, University of Illinois, ([aws@illinois.edu](mailto:aws@illinois.edu) <<mailto:aws@illinois.edu>>); Scott MacKenzie, York University, ([scott.mackenzie22@gmail.com](mailto:scott.mackenzie22@gmail.com) <<mailto:scott.mackenzie22@gmail.com>>), or Lill-Ann Körber, Humboldt University ([lill-ann.koerber@staff.hu-berlin.de](mailto:lill-ann.koerber@staff.hu-berlin.de) <<mailto:lill-ann.koerber@staff.hu-berlin.de>>), but proposals should be submitted directly to the conference organizers at [sass2013@berkeley.edu](mailto:sass2013@berkeley.edu).

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### STREAM #6: NORDIC HISTORY STREAM

(Endorsed by the Society of Historians of Scandinavia)

“The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Era in Scandinavia: Upheaval, Transformation and Remembrance—Scandinavia 1800-1814. A Bicentennial Examination of Scandinavia’s Age of Crisis during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Era”

The impending bicentennial of 1814: Scandinavia’s “Year of Decision” has generated new studies of a much broader period in Scandinavia during the era of the French Revolution and Napoleon. We would propose two history sessions dealing not only with 1814 itself but also

with the recent and new perspectives on the revolutionary and Napoleonic era in Scandinavian history as well as new scientific approaches to this field of study. We would also encourage the addition of at least one additional session that dealt with artistic and literary themes / manifestations of this crisis as well.

Tentative session topics might include the following:

- Contemporary experiences and later remembrance: letters, diaries and memoirs
- Scandinavia and the Continental Blockade: implementation and consequences
- Counter-factual histories of the Napoleonic Wars in Scandinavia: what could have happened.
- Constitutionalism and Political Culture
- Identities, patriotism and nationalism
- Collaboration and Resistance
- "Proto-Scandinavianism": Monarchies, Politics and Culture
- Structuralism or functionalism? The role of individuals in the course of Scandinavian politics
- Danish, Swedish and Norwegian Rivalry and Peace

We will plan initially on 15-minute papers, four presenters per session. The final make-up of the sessions to be determined after proposals are received and evaluated. Send queries to the stream organizers, Lee Sather, Professor of History (Emeritus), Weber State University ([lsather@weber.edu](mailto:lsather@weber.edu)) or Morten Nordhagen Ottosen, Department of History, University of Oslo ([m.n.ottosen@iakh.uio.no](mailto:m.n.ottosen@iakh.uio.no)), but send paper proposals to the main conference organizers at [sass2013@berkeley.edu](mailto:sass2013@berkeley.edu) by November 30, 2012.

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## STREAM #7: NEW PERSPECTIVES IN SCANDINAVIAN HISTORY

Recently, historical research in the various Scandinavian countries has undergone important paradigm changes with significant implications for Scandinavian history as a whole, but fruitful dialogue has been hampered by the tendency for research and intellectual discussion to be carried out primarily within national contexts rather than across national boundaries. This stream invites both junior and senior scholars working in historically-related fields to submit proposals for papers, workshops, and roundtable discussions dealing with all aspects of history in the Scandinavian countries, especially research dealing with new historical perspectives, or research which aims to 'rewrite' our understandings of the past. Presentations that introduce new historical themes, methods, or concepts are equally welcome. The goal of this stream is not only to create a lively dialogue on the comparative aspects of history across the Scandinavian countries, but also to encourage a rethinking of their relationship to each other, as well as their historical place within Europe and the world.

Questions about this stream should be directed to Laura Stark ([laura.stark@jyu.fi](mailto:laura.stark@jyu.fi)) or to Pirjo Markkola ([pirjo.markkola@jyu.fi](mailto:pirjo.markkola@jyu.fi)), but proposals should be submitted directly to the conference organizers at [sass2013@berkeley.edu](mailto:sass2013@berkeley.edu) by November 30, 2012.

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## STREAM #8: NORDIC LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS

This proposed stream for SASS in San Francisco deals with the multifaceted aspects of using and developing materials teaching and learning the Nordic Languages. We hope to encourage sharing information about textbooks and other reference material for teaching and learning of the Nordic languages. Included would be non-print resources, like the Yahoo group for learners of Norwegian (Norskklasse) and social networking sites (like YouTube and blogs) which have a plethora of active material that teachers and students could use. There are quite a few projects and current publications in this general area, and we would like a chance to share our points of views and experiences.

This stream (if accepted) would lend itself nicely to posters and flash sessions. Send queries to the stream organizer, Louis Janus ([janus005@umn.edu](mailto:janus005@umn.edu)), but send paper proposals to the main conference organizers at [sass2013@berkeley.edu](mailto:sass2013@berkeley.edu) by November 30, 2012.

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## STREAM #9: THE AUTHOR IN SCANDINAVIAN LITERARY STUDIES

At least since the heyday of the New Criticism (e.g. Wimsatt and Beardsley's "Intentional Fallacy") the author (later reduced to "the author function") has been a controversial figure in literary studies. This conference stream attempts to both historicize and provide a reappraisal of "the author" as a critical concept in the study and teaching of Scandinavian literature.

Papers may deal a variety of topics, for example:

- What does it mean to be a Scandinavian author?
- Did the author survive in, for example, Copenhagen, Oslo, or Stockholm, even though s/he died in Paris?
- The role of the author in Scandinavian literary historiography
- The Scandinavian author as genius
- Authors and critics in Scandinavian criticism: War or truce?
- The material conditions of Scandinavian authors, in the past or today
- The author in Scandinavian autobiographical fiction
- The author in first-person v. third-person narrative
- Is the author needed in the classroom? Or, professorial sophistication as opposed to student naiveté

Send queries to the stream organizer, Jan Sjøvik ([sjavik@u.washington.edu](mailto:sjavik@u.washington.edu)), but send paper proposals to the main conference organizers at [sass2013@berkeley.edu](mailto:sass2013@berkeley.edu) by November 30, 2012.

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## STREAM #10: FOUND IN TRANSLATION (papers and panel discussion)

Organizer: Norman Robert Spencer ([norman-robert.spencer@norges-bank.no](mailto:norman-robert.spencer@norges-bank.no))



This stream will discuss practical (rather than theoretical) aspects of working as a translator. Envisaged as a panel discussion by working translators, this stream will cover all types of translation, from literary and commercial fiction to medical, technical, commercial and legal. For that reason, participants should reflect the entire market, and include translators with academic positions, freelance translators and in-house translators (agency, corporate or government). Participants accepted should give a fifteen-to-twenty-minute presentation of their backgrounds, how they got into the business, their experience as a translator, special concerns, horror stories, etc. Following the presentations, the floor will be open to an extended discussion.