

Call for papers for the conference

"Ambiguities, Alterations, Alternatives – transforming Nordic literatures"

Date: 4–6 October 2012

Place: Uppsala university, Uppsala, Sweden

The literary fields and literary canons in the Nordic countries are under constant negotiations and transformations. During the last decades, various alternative literatures have evolved beside the majority literatures of the Nordic nation-states. These new formations, constructed around so called “alternative” perspectives regarding language, ethnicity, sexuality, gender and social class, have been categorized as e.g. migration, minority and queer literatures. Also the influence of postcolonial theories, queer, indigenous, ethnic literary and gender studies mean that discursive constructions of national literary canons are being challenged. The canon debates during the 21st Century in the Nordic countries prove that the notion of a national canon is far from part of a historical past. The reason why issues that concern the literary canon evokes such strong opinions can be partly understood through the position literature has in the building of national identities in the Nordic nation-states. This means that the plurality of perspectives in literature has the potential to question the very concepts of literary canon, canon formations, national self-understanding and identity.

At the conference *Ambiguities, Alterations, Alternatives – transforming Nordic literatures* we wish to highlight these issues. How are alternatives made visible, and which ambivalences and ambiguities arise when Nordic literature changes? What are the effects of these “new literatures” and works that give voice to hybridity, alternative discourses and ambiguity in Nordic literatures? Have these so called new literatures always existed but not been recognized by the literary establishment (at least not in a way that corresponds with our concept of [post]modern society)? What is “Nordic literature” in the context of globalization and when related to migration? And can a modification of the idea of Nordic literature transform the very context within which it is produced?

We welcome scholars to give 20 minute-talks on these and related issues, and also suggestions for panels. Please submit an abstract in English of no more than 200 words before March 18, 2012. Notification will be given by April 2, 2012. Please send your proposal as an attached file to conference secretary Ann-Sofie Lönngrén, ann-sofie.lonngrén(a)littvet.uu.se

Organizers: The Steering Committee for the research network DINO - Diversity in Nordic Literatures (Satu Gröndahl, Heidi Grönstrand, Anne Heith, Rita Paqvalén), The Hugo Valentin center, The Center for Gender Research and The Department of Literature, Uppsala university

Cost: 500 SEK; students 300 SEK. Conference dinner is included.

Key-words: Nordic, national identity, canon formations, transformations