



Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic+

Scandinavian Studies Newsletter

2022-2023

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A Message from the Program Chair

Greetings and happy spring to friends and supporters of Scandinavian Studies here at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I should, however, mention that as I am writing this message in the third week of April, it does not really feel like spring in Madison. We are anticipating 4-6 inches of snow later today. Sigh.

Fortunately, we have been able to teach in-person all academic year. This has been good for both instructors and students. Now and then someone came down with Covid, but we have become so used to online teaching, that making a switch from in-person to online teaching for a day or a week no longer presents problems. We are a very sociable unit, and it has been wonderful to finally get together and socialize. Among other things, we had a wonderful in-person glögg party in December.

We think you will find much interesting and informative reading material in this issue of our newsletter. Among other things, there are descriptions of visits by foreign scholars to campus and the Nordic unit in particular, a report on the Ojibwe Winter Games at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in which two of our faculty/staff members played an active role, an announcement of two book publications, and a description of a UW-Alumni arranged trip to Iceland last summer. Two of our current PhD students give an account of their dissertation projects, and undergraduate students tell about their experience doing study abroad and studying at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Our alumni are important to us, and so many of them keep in touch. In this newsletter, two alumni tell us about what they have been up to since graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. If you studied here and would like to share your story, please get in touch with us.

Finally, some graduate students, faculty, and staff put together a list of recommended Scandinavian foods and recipes for you to try out over the summer months, if you are interested.

I wish to conclude by mentioning that our newsletter will again be issued twice a year – in April/May and November/December. The newsletter is posted online. If you would like a printed copy mailed to you, please let us know.

We wish you all the best. Stay safe.

- Program Chair, Kirsten Wolf

Photo credits

Cover photo: Bascom Hall, Bascom Hill and the central University of Wisconsin-Madison campus are pictured in an aerial view during autumn on Oct. 12, 2013. Clockwise from the left, major campus facilities include South Hall, Birge Hall, Van Vleck Hall, Van Hise Hall, Carillon Tower and North Hall. In the background at right is Lake Mendota. The photograph was made from a helicopter looking west. (Photo by Jeff Miller/UW-Madison)

Above: Bascom Hill is flanked by trees changing colors with Bascom Hall showing the "W" banners "Forward has no finish line" with Van Hise Hall rising in the background during an autumn day on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus on Oct. 27, 2021. (Photo by Althea Dotzour / UW-Madison)

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**Newsletter is available online at
gns.wisc.edu/gns-newsletters**



Our Norwegian and Sámi guests continue north to Waaswaaganing and are pictured here at the Lac du Flambeau Public School Winter Games on Sámi national day, February 6, 2023 Photo credit: Tom DuBois

Ojibwe Winter Games at UW-Madison

by *Marcus Cederström*

Highs in the single digits were perfect for the Ojibwe Winter Games@UW-Madison, held on Friday, February 3. Nearly 50 students, community members, and colleagues joined the Folklore Program and Scandinavian Studies in welcoming Ojibwe artist and educator Minogiiizhig [Wayne Valliere] and his apprentices from Waaswaaganing [Lac du Flambeau] as they shared their traditional Ojibwe winter games with the Madison community.

First started as a revitalization project in 2010 in Waaswaaganing, the Winter Games is one way in which Minogiiizhig and other educators work to teach not just culture, but culturally. By helping students, community members, and other learners take part in, learn about, and learn from each other, we see how local culture can help create new bonds and break down old walls.

Folklorists in our department, including Lowell Brower, Marcus Cederström, and Tom DuBois have played an active role in helping to organize the games and

work with Minogiiizhig and his apprentices to ensure that more and more students are introduced to the Indigenous history of the region. As a Nordic studies program in the United States, we recognize that we can not tell the history of Nordic immigration to the area without also telling and understanding the history of Indigeneity and the people who were here long before Scandinavians made their way inland.

This was the third iteration of the games at UW-Madison and the event was supported by the Our Shared Future project as part of the educational framework to recognize, learn from and about, and amplify the Indigenous peoples and knowledge central to this region. We were especially excited this year to be joined by Birgitta Fossum and Elin Kristina Jåma from the Saemien Sijte: South Sámi Museum and Cultural Center along with Trond Nilsson, Jon Reitel, and Leiv Sem from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and Nord University. We look forward to continuing our partnership in the near future.

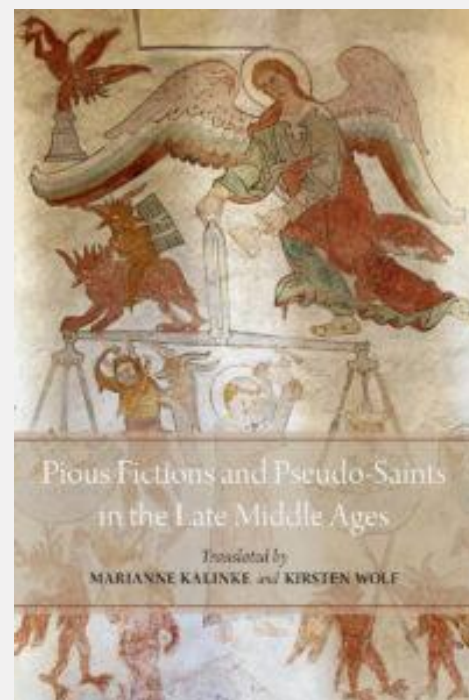
NEW BOOK RELEASE

Pious Fictions and Pseudo-Saints in the Late Middle Ages: Selected Legends from an Icelandic Legendary

Translated by Marianne Kalinke and Kirsten Wolf

This volume provides English translations of selected legends from a remarkable sixteenth-century Icelandic collection known as the *Reykjahólabók*. The Middle Low German originals it translates are no longer extant, apocryphal wholly or in part, and wondrously strange. The volume also includes a wide-ranging introduction that surveys the historical and literary contexts for the translation of Catholic saints' lives on the eve of the Protestant Reformation in Iceland, as well as normalized editions of the legends accessible to readers of contemporary Icelandic.

The eight legends translated here detail the adventures of St Oswald and his quest for a bride by a garrulous raven; Henry and Cunegund, and her accusation of infidelity and trial by ordeal; John Chrysostom, the Golden-mouthed, and his hairy-anchorite tale; Jerome and an injured lion, who herds asses for the monastery; Christopher, the giant Reprob, who bears the Christ child across deep waters; George, the Dragon-slayer, who saves a princess from the devouring monster; the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus, who escape persecution by Emperor Decius through centuries-long slumber; and Gregorius, the Good Sinner, in a tale of double incest. In fictionalizing the lives of established saints, and in the creation of fictitious saints, these legends represent the concluding chapter of medieval hagiography.



A Pair of Stimulating Talks by Henrik Berggren

by Dean Krouk

On October 24, 2022, the Scandinavian Studies program welcomed the Stockholm-based journalist and historian Henrik Berggren, who is one of the co-authors, with Lars Trägårdh, of *The Swedish Theory of Love: Individualism and Social Trust in Modern Sweden* (recently translated and published by the University of Washington Press). Berggren spoke to an eager audience in Van Hise Hall about the key ideas from this book, a fascinating work that was originally published in 2006 as *Är svensken människa? Gemenskap och oberoende i det moderna Sverige*.

Berggren and Trägårdh challenge readers to reconsider the simplifying clichés about how the Nordic region is more “collectivist” while the US is more “individualist.” Instead, their work explores the tradition of radical individualism in Swedish society and intellectual history, arguing that it is combined with a high level of social trust under the aegis of the welfare state.

According to the authors, these features of Swedish society have formed the conditions for relationships of love and affection that are not based on historical patterns of dominance and dependency, but rather autonomy and authenticity. Berggren’s talk invited the audience to reflect on this complex array of personal and societal issues in both the Nordic and the US cultural contexts.

Since Berggren is also the author of a major trilogy about Sweden during 1940-1945 (*Landet Utanför*), Professor Krouk invited him to give a remote presentation in the new course “The Second World War and Nordic Culture.” On February 16, 2023, Berggren Zoomed into that classroom and shared his expertise with the students and senior auditors, helping them make sense of the controversies about Swedish neutrality and the reading they were assigned for that week, Astrid Lindgren’s *War Diaries*.

The Memory and Memorialization of World War II in Norway

by Dean Krouk

Three visiting colleagues from Norway spoke on February 2, 2023 to a packed lecture hall with nearly 70 audience members. Two of the speakers, Jon Reitan and Trond Risto Nilssen, are professors at NTNU, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, in Trondheim. The third speaker, Leiv Sem, is a professor at Nord University in Bodø and Levanger. All three of the guests specialize in research and teaching about the history and cultural memory of World War II, the Holocaust, and the occupation of Norway.

The speakers divided the 75-minute event into thirds, with Jon Reitan speaking first about “Memories and Microhistories of the Holocaust.” Professor Reitan narrowed his focus to tell the interwoven war stories of two men from the Trondheim Jewish community, one of whom was the well-known Auschwitz survivor

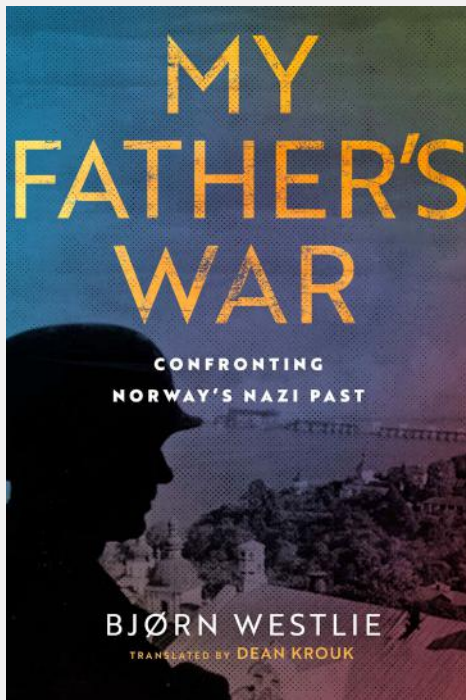
Julius Paltiel. The second speaker was Trond Risto Nilssen, who explained “The Legal Purges in Norwegian Postwar Memory.” Professor Nilssen addressed the ways in which the punishment of traitors and collaborators after the occupation has been subject to forgetting or made taboo within the heroizing patriotic consensus narrative of Norway’s involvement in the war. Lastly, Leiv Sem spoke about “The Traitors in Norwegian Cultural Memory,” focusing on the Norwegian public’s ambivalent fascination with Eastern Front volunteers in the Waffen-SS. Professor Sem also offered a thought-provoking reading of the portrayal of the infamous Gestapo agent Henry Rinnan in a recent novel by Simon Stranger (*Leksikon om lys og mørke*, from 2018, translated as *Keep Saying Their Names*). For students, faculty, and members of the public, this was an absorbing, challenging, and memorable lecture event.

NEW BOOK RELEASE

My Father’s War: Confronting Norway’s Nazi Past

Bjørn Westlie

Translated by Dean Krouk



My Father’s War is simultaneously a history of the Nazi occupation of Norway in World War II and a son’s sincere attempt to understand the silences, motivations, and experiences of an estranged father. In this carefully researched book, combining family memoir and historical retelling, Bjørn Westlie uncovers his father’s actions as a volunteer soldier for the Waffen-SS, the military wing of the infamous Schutzstaffel (SS), in the invasion of the Soviet Union. Balancing his role as both son and critical investigator, Westlie unflinchingly interrogates his father’s fascist convictions, which speak to the appeal Hitler’s ideology held for a small, disgraced segment of Norway’s mid-century population. A story of collaboration, tragedy, and treason, *My Father’s War* reveals the little-known history of Norway’s frontkjempere (front fighters), the atrocities the Waffen-SS committed against Ukrainian Jews, and the complex legacies of ethnonationalism in Norway.

With an insightful introduction from translator Dean Krouk, *My Father’s War* is a contemporary classic of war literature. Committed to genuine understanding without falling into undue sympathizing, this sober and reflective book presents an eye-opening, moving, intense, and necessary account of the allure of fascism in a world at war—and its personal costs.

Circumnavigating Iceland with UW-Madison Alumni

by Kirsten Wolf

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Kirsten Wolf once again served as a faculty host for a UW-Alumni arranged trip in late July / early August 2022. She took a group of UW-Madison alumni on a 10-day trip to Iceland to circumnavigate the island. Upon arrival in Reykjavík, the group boarded the chartered small ship *Le Champlain* and arrived the next day at the awe-inspiring Westfjords, where among other things the group toured Ísafjörður's Westfjords Heritage Museum. During the night, the group sailed further north and then east and spent the day in Siglufjörður before continuing to Grímsey, a beautiful, treeless island. The ship continued further east to Húsavík, where the group made a stop to see, for example, fields of boiling, sulfurous mud pots. From Húsavík, the ship rounded the island and made stops on the east coast before sailing all the way along the south coast to the Westman Islands, where the group stopped for the day. On the way back to Reykjavík, there were lots of whales swimming next to the ship.

It was a great trip, but unfortunately the weather was not good. It was cold, and it rained a lot. Moreover, we had stormy weather, and quite a number of people got seasick. In fact, we had to skip a stop and abandon a day-long trip on the south coast of Iceland due to high seas. But the Badgers were troopers and did not complain at all. Everyone had to be Covid-tested within 24 hours of boarding the ship, but despite this precaution and very strict regulations about face-masks at all times on board the ship, some people, including Badgers, came down with Covid towards the end of the trip. Fortunately,



Circumnavigating Iceland.



Pictured: *Le Champlain*

everyone made a speedy recovery. The UW-Alumni Association offers many very interesting trips. If you are interested, please contact the Association.

Indigenous Wisconsin-Sámi Sharing

by Tom Dubois

Along with making presentations on campus concerning the Norwegian experience and memorialization of WWII, Professors Nilsson, Reitel, and Sem were joined by two Sámi museum professionals—Birgitta Fossum and Elin Kristina Jåma, both of the Saemien Sijte South Sámi Museum and Cultural Center, located in Snåsa, Norway. Tom DuBois and Marcus Cederström escorted all five guests on a tour of the Menominee reservation and Lac du Flambeau reservation, where Fossum and Jåma gave presentations and participated in podcast recordings. The visits were part of a larger effort to increase dialogue between Nordic Sámi and

Wisconsin Indigenous community members, artists, and academics, and to explore the enduring linkages that developed between immigrants arriving from the Nordic countries in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the Indigenous communities of Wisconsin and the broader Upper Midwest. All five guests participated in the Ojibwe Winter Games organized on the UW campus on February 3 as part of the university's Our Shared Future project. They also met with students and educators from the College of the Menominee Nation who will be visiting Nord University and the Saemien Sijte museum in May 2023.

Women's Sexual Health in Late Medieval Denmark and Norway

by *Ailie Westbrook*

When we think about women's health in the past, we usually focus on the dangers of childbirth and how older forms of medicine were ineffective at meeting modern healthcare standards. However, in late medieval Norway and Denmark, neither the cultural understanding of women's bodies nor the goals of medical treatment were the same as they are today. Cultural conceptions are rarely articulated explicitly, but medical advice reflects a culture's ideas about women and medicine. We can therefore use medieval texts—leechbooks, legal records, saints' lives, miracle texts—to shed light on that understanding. In my dissertation, I plan to follow the reproductive lifecycle of many women and look at menstruation, aphrodisiacs, fertility, contraception, abortion, childbirth, and post-menopausal care.

As in most of Europe during the Middle Ages, medicine in Scandinavia was based on humoral theory, which divides the world into the four humors: hot, cold, wet, and dry. Illness was often treated by balancing those humors through herbs or dietary changes, which would be different for every person. Women, for example, were generally believed to have colder, wetter natures than men. Women could also be treated through appeals to divine power, use of mystical words written on parchment, or even what we might call magic spells today. One Danish medical text from the late Middle Ages, for example, advises women to put a unicorn horn under their left arm to avoid pain during childbirth. The range of cures for particular ailments can reveal underlying assumptions about what causes illnesses, or even which illnesses are connected. Unicorn horns, for example, were also believed to treat women who have lost their 'bloom' (likely menstrual cycle) or men who have lost their 'natures.'

The manuscripts also give us an idea of the kinds of complaints or illnesses that were considered within the purview of medicine. In one leechbook, among cures for difficult births and uterine tumors, remedies are prescribed for women's 'lewdness' and adultery, suggesting that women's sexual behavior, when it

deviates from the norm of chastity, is not just wrong but pathological. Likewise, cures for testing virginity and preventing women from lying exist in medical texts. This invites us to re-examine our definition of women's illnesses and who benefits from the prescribed cures. Is women's medicine concerned with alleviating pain and promoting wellness and longevity, or is its aim to treat women's social role?

Abortion and contraception are other areas where the lines between the social and the biological are blurred. One manuscript provides a contraceptive recipe for women who 'fear death' from childbirth, while another warns the reader to conceal contraceptive knowledge from women. Instructions like these allow us to imagine how the written sources still extant may have interacted with the actual practice of women's medicine. Although my dissertation does not aim to (and could not) reconstruct what women in late medieval Scandinavia actually did when they worried about their health, I hope to shed light on the cultural and cognitive attitudes that shaped how men and women interacted with women's sexual health.



A bright and colorful living room display from IKEA's 1969 catalog, p. 2.

IKEA Fictions

by *Richelle Wilson*

Writing a dissertation is like having a years-long case of the Baader–Meinhof phenomenon. Once you've selected your research topic, you start seeing it everywhere. This is even truer when you're writing about IKEA because, well, it really is everywhere. As the biggest furniture retailer in the world, the Swedish company has unsurprisingly made its way into many homes, including my own. Every night, I sleep on an IKEA pillow. My dish set, which I proudly purchased for my first apartment, is emblazoned with the IKEA logo. And, of course, there's the iconic blue FRAKTA bag where I store my winter hats and scarves, perched on the top shelf of my closet.

I'm not the only one who recently started taking special notice of the everyday objects in my home; the stay-at-home orders of the early COVID-19 pandemic had a lot of us thinking about our living spaces in new ways. We spend a lot of time in our homes, so it only makes sense to take a closer look. If it's true that IKEA is the Swedish Disney of interior design, and I argue that it is, then it too requires closer inspection. Home décor brands like IKEA have a lot of cultural power in determining things like what makes a great hosting space or how a kid's bedroom should look. Beyond that, they shape the cultural conversation around what makes a home a home in the first place.

Besides its omnipresence in my apartment, part of what put IKEA on my radar was noticing how often it was appearing in literature, film, and other media. Over the

past decade and a half, there has been a wave of artistic projects and fictional texts that are set in IKEA (or a parody version of it) and/or make use of its products as a recognizable visual language to critique the systems of late capitalism that enable IKEA's global status. For my dissertation, I am closely analyzing three of these works: *Borta bäst* by Sara Kadefors (2009), a Swedish novel about a woman living in her car outside an IKEA store; *Horrorstör* by Grady Hendrix (2014), a comedy horror novel printed to look like an IKEA catalog; and *Finna* by Nino Cipri (2020), a queer sci-fi novella set in a fake IKEA store. I investigate why IKEA is portrayed in these texts as a site of homelessness, a haunted house, and a portal into the multiverse, respectively. This is one part of the “fictions” in the title.

The other meaning of “fictions” has to do with the fictional dream life that brands like IKEA sell to us. I'm interested in how we can read IKEA as a cultural text to better understand the promises and pitfalls of mottos like “dream home at a dream price” and “democratic design.” To this end, my dissertation also includes a close reading of the entire archive of IKEA catalogs from 1951 to 2021. This has probably been my favorite part of the research so far. Not only do I get to feel like the Indiana Jones of this digital treasure trove, but it's given me a fascinating look into how IKEA has both shifted and remained consistent as it's gone from being a small mail-order company based in Älmhult to the furniture giant it is today.

Scandinavian Studies Graduates

Graduate Students

Emily Hoffman Beyer (MA) Spring 2023

Michael Knudson (Ph.D.) Spring 2023

Undergraduate Students

MAJORS

Zachary Thomas Bonick (BS) / Spring 2023

Dylan John Dees (BA) / Spring 2023

Linnea Margaret Kronzer (BS - Honors in the Major) / Spring 2023

Sydney Mueller (BA - Honors in the Major) / Spring 2023

Sadie Pearl Uehling (BS) / Spring 2023

Zac von Ruden (BS) / Spring 2023

CERTIFICATES

Katarina Testerman / Fall 2022

Ryan Sipe / Fall 2022

Samantha Rose Erickson / Spring 2023

Ashley Dawn Hestad / Summer 2023

Anna Martinez / Summer 2023

Alumni Updates

Brett M. Mignin

My name is Brett M. Mignin. I finished my graduate coursework in Nordic Philology at UW in 2019. Throughout my time in the department, I was incredibly fortunate to have a multitude of professors and fellow graduate students who shared a common passion for Scandinavian Studies. I first realized and inherited this passion at Augustana College, while in undergraduate studies under Dr. Ben Mier-Cruz, who I am incredibly happy to see at UW!

I spent my first year at UW taking a variety of courses and getting to know the different options I could focus on. I thoroughly enjoyed taking Old Norse with Kirsten Wolf and absolutely loved being able to translate various texts and work to see how these languages evolved and how they are interpreted.

In my second year of coursework, I was appointed as the live-in program coordinator (GLPC) in our Norden House learning community. I taught coursework on Scandinavian Culture, History, and Language and assisted in immersing our students in the Nordic languages and culture they were studying. We watched Nordic language movies on a weekly basis and participated in Scandinavian themed baking activities, games, and other events/excursions. In coordination with other language houses, we had larger events to compare and learn about the other cultures and languages that UW Madison International Learning Community had to offer.

As my time at UW concluded, I entered a sales role in the industrial manufacturing world at a Japanese tool manufacturer, Nitto Kohki, just as COVID-19 began to spread. Over the course of two years, I served a very restricted metalworking industry due to various lockdowns at manufacturing facilities. As restrictions wound down and the world began to open up once more, I was able to move on to an



inside sales account manager position at Barentz, an international chemical distributor. I began to focus on supplying materials to the semiconductor, EV battery, and wire & cable markets evolving throughout the US since production has ramped up from the CHIPS act.

I will always enjoy keeping my passion for Scandinavian Studies close to me in my personal life. I've been happy and able to help various members of my local community with translating Swedish/Norwegian genealogy records and assisting in Scandinavian family history research to anyone interested. I continue to reread the Icelandic sagas and practice Swedish in my free time. My years at UW—Madison were some of the best, as I was able to spend my time learning and writing about what I love. I will always be grateful for my time spent there among such a great community of scholars.

John Prusynski

My name is John Prusynski and I am a PhD candidate writing a dissertation on Sámi literature. I have studied Sámi language and literature for about ten years, both at UW–Madison with Professor DuBois and for a semester during my master’s degree at the Sámi University of Applied Sciences in Guovdageaidnu in Sápmi (Kautokeino, Norway). Since Fall 2022, I have also been a lecturer in Norwegian language at UC Berkeley, where I am currently teaching first-year Norwegian and a course on Sámi literature.

The move here to the Bay Area has been nice so far, not least because of the sunny weather! The teaching has also been incredibly rewarding, especially the opportunity to teach Sámi literature in the classroom. As more and more works of Sámi literature are being translated into English, such as Niillas Holmberg’s *Underfoot*, recently translated by Jennifer Kwon Dobbs and Johanna Domokos, and Ann-Helén Laestadius’s *Stolen*, recently translated by Rachel Willson-Broyles, students at North American universities now have access to a greater diversity of Sámi texts than ever before. Many of the texts I am incorporating into the classroom this semester are also central to my research, and it has been wonderful to get the chance to share these texts with engaged and insightful students. Preparing to teach these texts has also helped me consider them from new angles, so that the course and my research have been able to benefit one another.



It has also been exciting to see the growing presence of Sámi topics in North American discussions of the Nordic region more generally. I recently had the opportunity to travel to Seattle to give a few guest lectures and was impressed by both the quality with which university students are able engage with Sámi texts and the amount of public interest in talks on Sámi topics. I hope that my research will help to meet this growing interest in Sámi arts and culture, and that it will encourage more people interested in Nordic literature to start reading texts by Sámi authors!

Katarina Tucker

My name is Katarina Tucker. I finished my PhD at UW-Madison in May 2007 after having the opportunity to do my research while on a Fulbright Fellowship in Sweden. My specialization was 19th- and early 20th- century Swedish literature; the title of my thesis being *Purple Patches: Language and Decadence in Oscar Levertin’s Poetry*. My interests were quite broad as I also enjoyed Old Norse, the sagas, as well as learning about the Sámi culture and languages.



My path since then has been as varied as my interests while in Madison. After completing my degree, my husband and I moved to The Netherlands after having lived in Sweden, England, and Los Angeles. I'm still living in the Netherlands with my husband, two daughters, and our family dog. I've been working as a translator and a teacher in both secondary and higher education since moving here.

I started working as a translator while still finishing my doctoral work. Working as a literary translator has given me the opportunity to work with authors and agents in a variety of countries. It's work which provides a creative outlet while also allowing me to share my love of Scandinavian literature. I've had the luck of being able to translate works such as Monica Fagerholm's *Den Amerikanska Flickan* and *Glitterscenen*, Mats Wahl's *Den onsynlige* and Sigge Eklund's *In i labyrinten*.

When I'm not translating, I'm busy teaching courses as part of the International Business

program at the Saxion University of Applied Sciences in Enschede. I teach writing and presentation skills, am chair of the examination board and together with a team of specialists I'm helping to write a new assessment policy for the university.

I am surrounded by students and colleagues from more than 35 different countries. Interacting with people from different cultures is one of the things I loved about my time as a Scandinavian Studies student and it's wonderful having that experience now as well, though in a different setting. In addition to interacting with people of various cultural backgrounds, the analytical skills, critical thinking, and curiosity which were encouraged in Madison serve me well now in all aspects of my work.

I also travel regularly to Sweden together with my family as it's one of our favorite places to be. Nothing beats a summer holiday on the west coast of Sweden!

Norwegian Heritage Research Study: Call for Participants!

Are you a North American of Norwegian descent? Do you live in or otherwise feel connected to a community that was settled by Norwegian immigrants in North America? If you answered yes to either of these questions, please consider participating in this research study!

A research team at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is conducting a survey about language, identity, and culture among Norwegian heritage populations in North America called "Continued connections: Linguistic and cultural identity among North Americans with Norwegian heritage."

The study seeks participants who are of Norwegian descent and/or feel connected to a Norwegian heritage community in North America. Even though there are questions about personal experiences with the Norwegian language, knowing Norwegian is not a requirement to participate.

If you are interested in taking part in this survey, or if you know anybody else who would be interested, the link to the online version is available: uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Sp2Khy0XRdmMKi

A printable copy of the survey is here: docs.google.com/document/d/12d9LtPoiwiLsT9jiqL3ZS5TwcbdEhOoRLMiYwMhxIXY/edit?usp=sharing. The mailing address for printed surveys is included at the end of the survey form.

If you have any questions about this project, you can email the point of contact of the study, Laura Moquin, at Imoquin@wisc.edu. You can also access this information and the surveys online through Laura's website: lmoquin.com/continued-connections/

Nordic Goodies

Norwegian Waffles (vafler)

Ida Moen Johnson

In Norway, waffles (*vafler*) are popular for breakfast and lunch and can be found at various huts along hiking trails for a mid-trek treat. Recipes for Norwegian waffles on the internet abound, but here I want to recommend three “hacks” for Norwegian waffles at home. First, you can purchase the iconic heart-shaped waffle iron (with five connected hearts) from Amazon or other retailers. Second, it generally works to use your favorite pancake batter or slightly watered-down waffle batter in these irons. Finally, to imitate Norwegian *rømme*, slightly water down some sour cream and serve this along with jam to top the waffles. *Vær så god!*

Swedish Sweets

Richelle Wilson

A recent study found that Sweden has the highest candy consumption per capita in the world. Yes, Swedes love their candy. They even have a tradition of eating candy on Saturdays (*lördagsgodis*), and many grocery stores feature entire walls of self-serve candy bins. The gummies are especially wide-ranging, including shapes like sharks, Ferraris, and even dentures (*mormors löständer*), to the delight of my students. My gummy-loving brother still talks about the Swedish assortment I brought home a decade ago. And on the topic of sweets, I’m a big fan of Julmust, a Swedish Christmas soda that tastes a bit like a spiced cola. It gets rebranded throughout the year as Påskmust (for Easter), sommarmust (for summer), etc. If you’re curious to give it a try, most IKEA markets sell a version of the must drink around the holidays.

Janssons Frestelse

Susan Brantly

I nominate Janssons frestelse (Jansson’s Temptation). A recipe with a little background can be found here: <https://www.swedishfood.com/swedish-food-recipes-main-courses/405-janssons>
This basic dish converted me to the beauties of anchovies. (I was raised thinking I hated fish of any kind).
Inexpensive, satisfying, comfort food.

Rømmegrøt

Joanna Schuth

I moved to Wisconsin over 15 years ago now, and one of my favorite traditions we had for a long time was attending a yearly lutefisk supper. Now, being of 0% Nordic extraction myself, the actual lutefisk was an exercise in ceremonial sampling, and I filled up on meatballs, lingonberries, lefse, mashed potatoes, and my absolute favorite part, the coffee and rømmegrøt. This sugared, buttered, cinnamon confection became an annual comfort food, a re-upping of my commitment to truly being a citizen of Wisconsin. The pandemic ended our tradition, but the warm feeling I get when I think about that porridge remains.

My favorite recipe was served at Vermont Lutheran Church, near Black Earth!

A recipe: visitnorway.com/things-to-do/food-and-drink/the-norwegian-cookbook/rommegrot/



Sorte Gryde

Kirsten Wolf



This is a traditional Danish dish popular among meat-lovers. It is typically served with mashed potatoes and a green salad on the side.

Ingredients:

one pound of tender beef
one large diced yellow onion
a little bit of butter
salt
pepper
strong instant coffee dissolved in water (ca. one cup)
two-three cups of cream
about 2/3 cup of tomato puree
half a cup of aquavit (one can use vodka instead)

Preparation:

Cut the beef into the length of matchsticks, around 1 cm wide. Sear the meat in a pan. Add all the other ingredients and let the dish simmer on low heat for an hour.



Ástarpungar

Emily Beyer



Although it is hard for me to create a hierarchy among Icelandic pastries due to being admittedly a non-biased sweet-tooth, a delicious treat that might be fun to try cooking at home is named ástarpungar. These are like cake donuts with a twist, both in their bawdy name--translated to "love balls"--and their inclusion of lemon zest, currants, and other spices. Here is a great tutorial for a Nordic addition to a weekend brunch, party, or as an after school snack: facebook.com/watch/?v=239436340584317



Äggost

Laura Moquin



Äggost, literally 'egg cheese', is more delicious than it sounds! This traditional and popular dish from the Bohuslän region of southern Sweden (where my husband Joel grew up) is served at holiday events and special occasions. The version we are familiar with is semi-sweet and served cold with berries or a berry sauce. It has the texture of a slightly granulated cheesecake with a similar flavor, and comes in beautiful shapes from the patterned hand-carved wooden molds used to make them. There are plastic and metal molds as well, and you could probably even use a strainer or a shallow cake pan with holes added for drainage. Most recipes ask for *gräddfil* or *filmjolk*, but sour cream works well too. Give it a try and *smaklig måltid!* If using a wooden mold, let it soak in water for 24 hours before making the recipe.

Ingredients:

7 large eggs to be whisked alone first
1 ¼ cups sour cream
8 ½ cups whole milk
¾ cups heavy whipping cream
(optional if you want a richer result)

Preparation:

Stir it all together and set to simmer for about 1 hour, it should not come to a boil. If it starts to bubble, pour in some cold water. Stir occasionally. Scoop out the clumps with a straining scoop and press them gently in the äggost mold. Have something under the mold to catch the extra liquid as it drains.
Sprinkle 1 tbsp of sugar over the top (soon to be the bottom).
Let set in refrigerator overnight.
Carefully turn mold over to release on to plate.
Serve with berries or a berry sauce.
The leftover fluid (whey) is great for baking rolls with!

Faculty and Staff Updates

Claus Elholm Andersen

Claus Elholm Andersen, who every year teaches a large course on Hans Christian Andersen, has begun working on a book-length project on Andersen's fairytales. This new project led to a short visit as a research fellow at the Kierkegaard Center in Copenhagen last May, where he worked on an article on Søren Kierkegaard and Hans Christian Andersen. And this May, the project will bring him to the Hans Christian Andersen Center in Odense, Denmark where he will investigate how Andersen through the formalistic features of his fairytales offers an early criticism of capitalism. Professor Andersen's forthcoming book, *Knausgård and the Autofictional Novel*, on the Norwegian writer Karl Ove Knausgård and his 6-volume autobiographical novel *My Struggle*, will be published by SUNY Press in December.



Susan Brantly

The crowning event of Spring 2022 was the SASS meeting in Puerto Rico. The extra days in Old San Juan were a wonderful experience. Brantly was on sabbatical during Fall 2022 and projects on P.C. Jersild and Carina Karlsson finally got the attention they deserved. In November, Brantly traveled to Stockholm, where she presented on Karen Blixen in a seminar at Södertörn University. Her work on Swedish historical novels is also gaining attention there and at other Swedish universities. The trip provided the opportunity to do archival work at the Royal Library on Pär Lagerkvist. Lagerkvist's keen interest in the intersection of painting and literature is likely to inspire Brantly's next scholarly project. Her work as editor of *Scandinavian Studies* continues to be a pleasure and a source of scholarly inspiration as well.

Marcus Cederström

Marcus Cederström continues his work with the Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Arts in the Upper Midwest project. This past year has included a week-long tour with Swedish folk musicians in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois; trips to Menominee nation and Lac du Flambeau with visitors from Norway and Sápmi; as well as a few barn dances in Middleton and on campus. In addition, he co-edited *Culture Work: Folklore for the Public Good* with Tim Frandy, which was released in July. His proudest accomplishment? Surviving (mostly and so far...) having a two-year old.



Tom DuBois

Tom DuBois completed his term as chair of GNS+ in the summer of 2022. Since then, he has resumed his work as head of the Folklore program and completed articles on various topics, including turn-of-the-century Sámi and Irish magic practices and the ways in which Sámi dictionaries reflect colonial experiences. He has worked to facilitate contacts between Wisconsin Indigenous communities and Sámi counterparts, through in-person visits both in Norway and Wisconsin.



Rebecca Forbes Wank

Rebecca is the financial specialist in the department. She also handles reimbursements and grants for the department and the funds at the Foundation. Outside of work, she and her husband are bird paparazzi (his words), and she plays the mandolin (and sometimes fiddle) in a contra dance band. She is noticing an upturn in gigs, which is another positive sign the pandemic is on the decline.

Ida Moen Johnson

Ida Moen Johnson has been the Permanent Lecturer in Norwegian since the fall of 2021. She earned her PhD from the Department of Scandinavian at UC Berkeley in May of 2020 with the dissertation, “The Barn and the Beast: The Queerness of Child-Animal Figurations in Scandinavian Children’s Literature and Culture.” In addition to her Norwegian language courses, Ida is excited to be teaching a new course this semester called “Humans and Other Animals in Nordic Literature and Culture.”



Dean Krouk

The early summer of 2022 saw the publication of Dean’s second book, *The Making of an Antifascist: Nordahl Grieg Between the World Wars*. In addition to research and writing, Dean continues to enjoy his other roles in the department, from teaching courses about Henrik Ibsen, modern Nordic history, and Norwegian literature/language, to serving as the Director of Graduate Studies for the Scandinavian program and, newly in 2022, one of the two associate chairs of GNS+. In February of 2022, Dean and his partner Nick adopted their first dog, a miniature schnauzer named Max, who has been an adorable addition.



Mark Mears

Mark Mears is the Graduate Coordinator for German, Nordic, and Slavic+ since it formed in 2016. Prior to that he was the Graduate Coordinator for the German Department and has worked at UW-Madison for over 30 years. He is the first contact for all graduate student admissions, and he assists current graduate students with navigating both Department and Graduate School policies and procedures from their initial recruitment to their final graduation. He is also the Curricular Representative for GNS+ and responsible for posting course offerings to the University’s Catalog of Courses each term and for classroom scheduling. In his leisure time Mark enjoys hiking, pickleball, and camping, with family and friends.



Scott Mellor

Scott Mellor continues his work with the International Learning Community as the faculty director of the Norden Language floor and the Bradley Learning Community for first-year students. Scott will become the president of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study in May and is co-editor of a volume on Finland-Swedish culture, for which he is writing an article on the Åland Islands. Scott continues to teach a First-year Interest Group on the medieval Sagas and use games and gaming to explore images of the medieval Nordic countries in pop culture. Scott is also currently working on reinstating a summer study abroad to Stockholm and the Baltic for in-coming first-years hoping to start in 2024.



Todd Michelson-Ambelang

Todd Michelson-Ambelang continues to work as the librarian for Scandinavian Humanities and South Asian Studies. He is slowly but surely researching and publishing in his areas of interest. He recently served as Principal Investigator for a library survey of faculty use and expectations of library materials and services. He has found a new love in number crunching and creating graphs of the results and then presenting them to various audiences in the university community. He continues to teach library instruction classes and guest lecture in Scandinavian Studies Classes. He is grateful to have so many opportunities to share knowledge.

Benjamin Mier-Cruz

Benjamin Mier-Cruz is Assistant Professor of Scandinavian Studies and Gender and Women's Studies. Their research interests are modern Nordic literature and film with a focus on writers and filmmakers of color and intersectional representations of gender, sexuality, and race. Benjamin's current book project explores contemporary representations of non-whiteness in Swedish visual culture. They have recently written "Edith Södergran's Genderqueer Modernism," "Swedish Racial Innocence on Film: To be Young, Queer and Black in Swedish Documentary Filmmaking," and the co-authored "Dracula or Draculitz? Translational Forgery and Bram Stoker's 'Lost Version' of *Dracula*."



Liina-Ly Roos

Liina-Ly Roos spent much of 2022 working on her book, and her articles on Swedish film *Amateurs* (Gabriela Pichler, 2018) and on reimagining cultural memory through parody music videos on Estonian Public Broadcasting were published in the spring of 2022. She taught her first graduate seminar in the fall; the seminar that focused on Nordic cinema brought together a wonderful intellectual community of students whose insights in class discussion were always valuable and inspiring. In the fall, Liina-Ly and her husband Justin bought their first house in Oregon, just south of Madison, and they're enjoying the charm of that small town.



Nick Schultz

Nick Schultz joined GNS+ in October of 2022 as the new Department Administrator. Nick has lived in Madison since 2005 during his undergrad years, and until recently was a supervisor for the UW Survey Center. He's been having a great time getting to know faculty and staff in German, Nordic & Slavic, and looks forward to a new year with more experience under his belt. When not working Nick enjoys spending time with his wife and two children on Madison's west side, camping, hiking, and simply staying afloat in a house with two rambunctious boys. Depending on the season, for personal leisure time he enjoys playing ultimate frisbee (poorly), basketball (even more poorly) and volleyball (slightly less poorly). When Wisconsin weather isn't cooperative board games and video games can help scratch that competitive itch. Board game night anyone?

Joanna Schuth

Joanna Schuth is the undergraduate advisor for the Scandinavian Studies major and certificate. She has been with GNS+ since 2019 and is the point of contact for all students in the department's twelve undergrad majors and certificates. When not at work she lives with her husband, daughter, and two cats on the East Side of Madison, where she foists classical music on her kid, dreams of summer, and invariably overplants her garden.

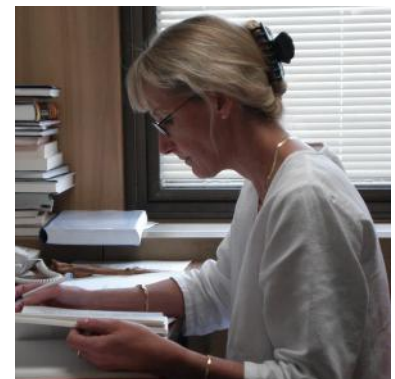


Jenna Sorensen

Jenna Sorensen joined the department in July 2022 as the new Media Designer. She creates promotional materials for courses and department events, maintains the GNS+ website, produces newsletters, and manages the social media accounts along with any other outreach needs. Prior to joining GNS+, she graduated in Fall 2019 from the University of Iowa with a BFA in Graphic Design, and previously worked as a Studio Production Artist at an advertising agency. Outside of work, she enjoys music, drawing, reading, and finding new bookstores in and out of Madison with her partner, Sean.

Kirsten Wolf

Kirsten Wolf is busy as always, and every year she seems to get busier. In addition to being chair of the Nordic Unit, she is now also chair of the Department of Art History, and so she is dividing her time between Van Hise Hall and the Elvehjem building. Nonetheless, she is determined to find time for research, even though it sometimes means having to burn the midnight oil. She was happy to see *Pious Fictions and Pseudo-Saints in the Late Middle Ages* (written in collaboration with Marianne Kalinke) published a few months ago. On occasion, she takes a weekend off to go to Milwaukee to enjoy time with her son.



Graduate Student Updates



Emily Beyer

Emily Beyer is a graduate student in Scandinavian Studies. She holds an MFA in Poetry from the University of Iowa and an MA in Medieval Icelandic Studies from the University of Iceland.



Rachel Bott

Rachel is a second-year Ph.D. on the Folklore track minoring in Medieval Studies. She teaches first-year Swedish with the department and hosts Swedish Language Table. She has worked with Serials Acquisitions at Memorial Library in the Little Magazines department. Her research focuses on monstrosity in Scandinavian Medieval Ballads.



Elliott Brandsma

Elliott Brandsma is a fourth-year Ph.D. student on the Literature and Cultural Studies track, with minors in Global Studies and Political Science. He intends to take his comprehensive exams this year and begin work on his dissertation research. As he prepares for his preliminary exams, he is also learning Finnish.



Mirva Johnson

Mirva Johnson is a PhD Candidate on the Folklore track. She has spent this past year teaching elementary Finnish at UW-Madison. Her dissertation examines linguistic and cultural change in Finnish American communities in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota.



Michael Knudson

Michael is a PhD Candidate in Philology at UW Madison and a Visiting Instructor at St. Olaf College where he teaches Norwegian language and topics in Viking and Medieval Scandinavian studies. He plans to defend his dissertation this year which examines Benedictine influence in the medieval Icelandic literature of Þingeyrarklaustur.



Svea Larson

Svea Larson is a PhD candidate examining early 20th century Swedish-American migration, women's history, and domestic practices. During the current academic year, she's been researching in Swedish archival collections in Växjö, Lund, Stockholm, Karlstad, and Kalmar for her dissertation project.



Holly McArthur

Holly is a PhD candidate on the Philology track. Finishing up her fourth year with the University of Wisconsin Press, she has been working on digital text editing methods and writing about the transmission of *Flóvent's saga*, Icelandic reception of European texts, and the many medievalisms of Tamora Pierce.



Laura Moquin

Laura is a PhD candidate writing her dissertation on Norwegian-influenced linguistic contact phenomena in varieties of regional American English, the trajectory of those features over time, and the relationship of those features to contemporary regional and heritage identity. This academic year, Laura has been busy conducting online and in-person fieldwork.



Lauren Poyer

Lauren is still a PhD Candidate here at UW-Madison and an Assistant Teaching Professor of Scandinavian Studies in the Department of Scandinavian Studies at UW-Seattle. Her research and teaching are in Old Norse literature and language. In summer 2022 she co-led a summer study abroad in Stockholm on Nordic conceptions of social justice.



John Prusynski

John Prusynski is a PhD Candidate writing a dissertation about the theme of travel in Sámi literature. He is interested in mostly contemporary authors such as Kirste Paltto, Niillas Holmberg, and Máret Anne Sara. He is also a lecturer at UC Berkeley teaching courses in Norwegian language and Sámi literature.



David Smith

David Smith is a 3rd-year PhD student and a translator from Norwegian to English. Recent activities include continuing to work on his translation of Tarjei Vesaas's short stories and taking part in a cross-disciplinary Hegel reading group at UW-Madison.



Ailie Westbrook

Ailie is a PhD candidate in the Folklore track. She passed her preliminary examination in May and is now writing her dissertation on women's sexual and reproductive health in medieval Denmark and Sweden. She is currently working as a PA for *Scandinavian Studies*.



Benjamin Wilson

Benjamin is a first year Scandinavian Studies MA/PhD student on the philology track. His studies focus on Scandinavian history, culture, and politics, especially in the Medieval period. He looks forward to continuing his study of both contemporary and historical Scandinavia.



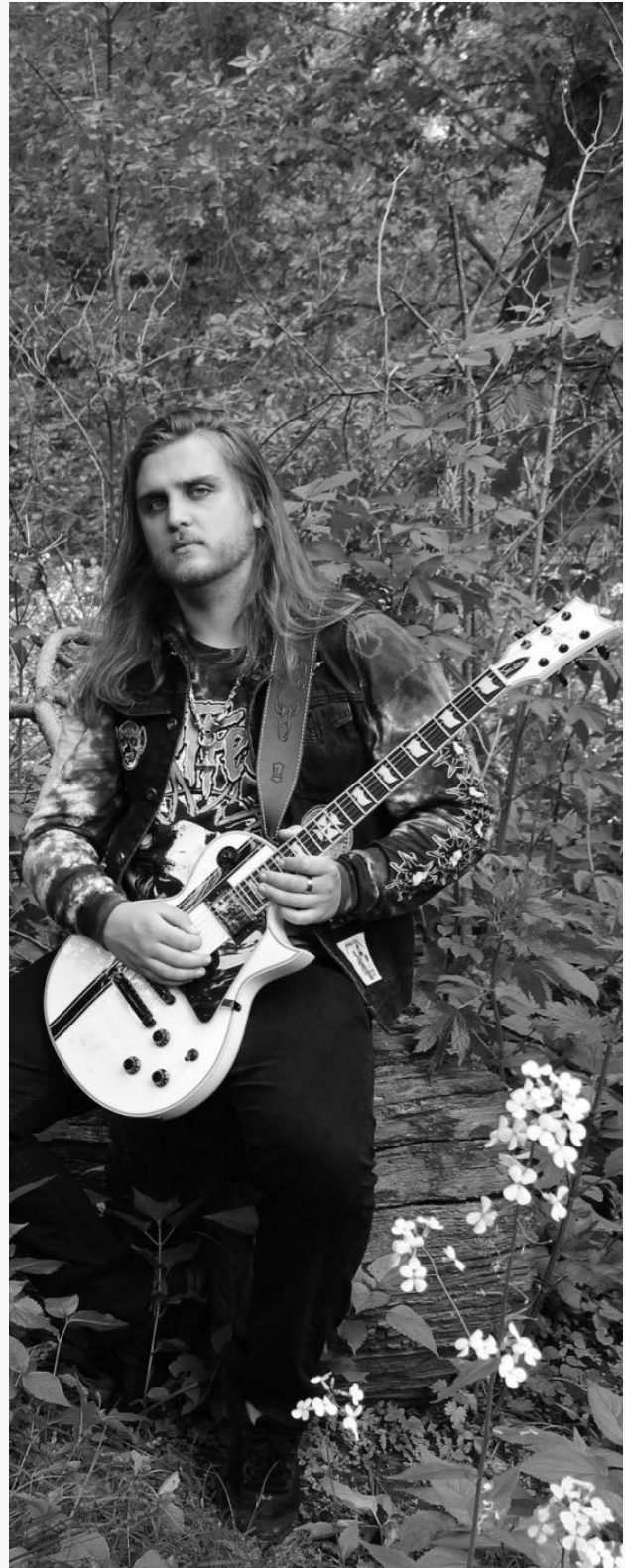
Richelle Wilson

Richelle Wilson is a PhD candidate writing a dissertation about IKEA in literature and culture. This year, she was awarded a Mellon Public Humanities Graduate Fellowship to serve as the Public Narratives Fellow for Midwest Environmental Advocates, where she is producing a podcast about PFAS contamination in Wisconsin.

Undergraduate Updates

Dylan Dees

My name is Dylan Dees and I am currently a senior at UW—Madison, and plan to conclude my studies this spring semester with a BA, with majors in English Creative Writing as well as Scandinavian Studies, with Certificates in Medieval Studies and Folklore. This is a rather unorthodox path to choose for academic study, as many people have told me when it comes up in conversation, and admittedly it was not my initial plan upon arriving here at Madison. But as I began to take introductory language courses in Norwegian, I fell in love with the languages and history of the Scandinavian world, and wanted to explore this fascinating realm further. I have always loved stories, and my favorite series of novels growing up was consistently Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, which I came to learn was heavily inspired by Nordic mythology and folklore. As I continued to take courses that explored these aspects of Scandinavian history, I found myself captivated by these tales, and this inspired me to pursue the Creative Writing track within the English department. My journey at UW—Madison has been both joyous and insightful, and through many courses I've taken I have learned of epic heroes like Hrolf and the dragon slayer Sigurd, but I believe I learned something truly invaluable within those walls: being able to read these stories and discuss their influence on culture and thought has helped me to better understand the world in which we now live, and of the many different things that influence contemporary culture and political thought. It is these lessons that I am the most grateful for, and the ones that I hope to pass on to my future students as I continue my next journey after UW Madison into the realm of academia. Some time after I graduate from UW Madison, I intend to pursue a Masters Degree in Secondary Education, and hope to share these stories and inspire future generations of writers and storytellers as these stories have inspired me. But this journey will not take place immediately following graduation, as I told myself at the wise and worldly age of six years old that I would become a rockstar, and my current Madison based band, *Monolith*, is currently in the process of planning tours of the Midwest, and eventually beyond.



Maria Gleason

A Semester in One of the Happiest Countries on Earth

Throughout the fall 2022 semester, I participated in an exchange program at the University of Copenhagen in Copenhagen, Denmark. Through this exchange, I was immersed in Danish culture and society. I lived in an international student apartment building with students from around the world as well as local Danish students. I was able to build connection with Danes and other international students while practicing both my Danish and German language skills. At the University of Copenhagen, I took courses focused on political science. I was fortunate to learn from some of the world's leading experts and researchers in the field. One course I took was focused on the European Union's structures and policies from the Danish perspective. This course was incredibly unique. It contained guest lectures from former Danish Ambassadors, former Danish representatives for the European Parliament, and editors of large-scale Danish newspapers. I learned about the importance of Denmark's role in the European Union, and it helped me understand some of the present-day issues such as the EU's position on the war in Ukraine. I also enrolled in a course focused on the politics of migration and immigration policies in Denmark. I learned about one of Denmark's most contentious political debates, how it's being addressed, and the scholarship behind it. I will always be grateful for my time spent there among such a great community of scholars.

Throughout the semester, I took advantage of the clubs available at the University of Copenhagen. Through the athletics club, I took two dance classes: a ballet class – instructed by a former dancer of the Royal Danish Ballet – and a jazz class. It was an eye-opening experience to take dance classes in Denmark. It was interesting to see which aspects of technique and performance translated over from the American styles of dance as well as the various teaching styles. This fall, I was fortunate enough to be a scholarship recipient from the ScanDesign foundation. Through ScanDesign, I participated in cultural activities and interacted with Danes who previously studied abroad at UW-Madison. For one ScanDesign event, we went

to the Opera House to watch a ballet centered around the Danish author Karen Blixen. This experience was particularly special because of my participation in the club ballet classes. I got to see the methods of technique and performance I was learning in class on stage at the beautiful Opera House in downtown Copenhagen.

My experience in Copenhagen was irreplaceable and has become an essential aspect of my undergraduate education. This fall, my perspective widened as I learned new ways of life and how to embody the Danish 'hygge.' As the days got shorter and shorter with the sun setting as early as 3:30 pm, my heart only grew larger and larger for Copenhagen and the beautiful country of Denmark. I hope the connections and memories I made in Copenhagen will last many years, and I will always be thankful for my study abroad experience.

Support Scandinavian Studies

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