

# NAAAS

## 2025

# ASPIRATIONS

JMC

The John Morton Center for  
North American Studies



UNIVERSITY  
OF TURKU

FASA

The Finnish American Studies Association

Turku, June 4-6, 2025 - DAY 1

## Conference Program, Subject to Change

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 4 (DAY 1)**

**8:30-9:30 REGISTRATION**

**9:30-11:00 PARALLEL SESSIONS I**

**Session 1a: Civil War Echoes and Aspirations: Grassroots Perspectives on Justice and Equality** (Room PUB1)

Chair: Karen V. Hansen, Brandeis University

Julie Allen, Brigham Young University

Kate Masur, Northwestern University

Anders Bo Rasmussen, University of Southern Denmark

**Session 1b: Identities, Communities, and Dreams** (Room PUB4)

Chair: TBC

Immigrants and American Aspirations: New Arrivals, New Expectations, Old Optimism

Marko Maunula, Clayton State University

“American means being whatever you want” – Aspiring to a New American Identity in Gish Jen’s *Mona in the Promised Land*

Zdravka Katinić, Karlstad University

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“There Is so much more freedom in the world now”: Progressive Era Aspirations in Mass-Market Novels

Jane Weiss, Kingsborough Community College of CUNY

The Role of the Black Church: Coping, Resisting, Forming, and Expressing Aspirational Ideas of the Black Community

Paulina Napierała, Jagiellonian University

**Session 1c: Indigenous and African American Agency in the North American Borderlands** (Room PUB5)

Chair: TBC

Panelists:

Daniel Caponio, University of Kansas

Andrew Isenberg, University of Kansas

Janne Lahti, University of Helsinki

Vivien Tejada, UCLA

**Session 1d: Nature, Climate, and Landed Possessions** (Room PUB209)

Chair: TBC

Aspiring American Scandinavia: Attempts to Make Alaska Profitable with Northern European Knowledge

Meeri Kataja, Montana State University

Aspirational Food Futures in the North American and Nordic Climate Narrative

Johan Höglund, Linnaeus University

The Science-Security Dilemma: Ambivalent U.S. Aspirations in the Arctic

Dabis Melinda, Pázmány Péter Catholic University

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Spiritual Aspirations and Transdecendent Possessions in Emerson, Hawthorne, and Child

Alexandra Urakova, University of Helsinki

**Session 1e: Aspirations and Failures at the Turn of the Twentieth Century**

(Room 269)

Chair: TBC

Panelists:

Myrto Drizou, Nord University

Jessica Hanssen, Nord University

Jordan Howie, University of Toronto

**Session 1f: Women's Activism and Empowerment (Room PUB309)**

Chair: TBC

Undeterred American Women War Correspondents in The Spanish Civil War:

Martha Gellhorn and Virginia Cowles

María Luz Arroyo Vázquez, UNED

Aspiring to Participate

Minna Uusivirta, University of Turku

Solidarity for Reproductive Justice: "Acompañamiento" and Transborder Feminist Activism

Nadia Nava, University of Turku

Literary Dimensions of Aspirations behind the U.S. Antinuclear Activism:

Nuclear Terrorism, Antinuclear Feminism, and Search for Identity in James Reich's *Bombshell* (2013)

Inna Häkkinen, University of Helsinki

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**11:15-11:30 OPENING**

**11:30-13:00 NORDIC PLENARY I (Room PUB1)**

**Incompossible Futures, Disrupted Presents: The Aspirations of Speculative Fiction**

Jenny Bonnevier, Örebro University

Steen Ledet Christiansen, Aalborg University

**13:00-14:00 LUNCH**

**14:00-15:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS II**

**Session 2a: Teaching American Studies Outside of the Americas (Room PUB1)**

Chair: Emma Long, University of East Anglia

Panelists:

William Glass, University of Warsaw

Benita Heiskanen, University of Turku

Martin Lüthe, Freie Universität Berlin

**Session 2b: Limits of Representation (Room PUB4)**

Chair: TBC

Aspirational Imaginary and the Aesthetic Representations of the Transnational  
in Jamaican American Poetry

Tijana Przulj, University of Bergen

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Limits to Representational Aspirations: The Case of Taylor Sheridan's *Wind River* and Indigenous Women's Femicides

Tereza Jiroutová Kynčlová, Charles University

Where Are You Really From? Emphasizing the Asian in Asian American

Hải Nguyễn, University of Turku

Aspiring For Meaning: From Hyperreality to Trans-corporeality in Sally Wen Mao's *Oculus*

Elina Siltanen, University of Eastern Finland

**Session 2c: 19th Century Aspirations (Room PUB5)**

Chair: TBC

Marching to their Own Drum: Conflicting Aspirations in Indian School Band Concerts, 1880-1904

Vincent Veerbeek, University of Helsinki

A Transnational Look on U.S. International Aspirations During the Turbulent Nineteenth Century

Alessandro Huber, Università degli Studi Roma Tre

"Getting me my freedom Back a Gain": The Paternalist Dream of a Stolen Man  
Lawrence McDonnell, Iowa State University

The Conquerors of the Hispanic United States in the First Half of the 19th Century

Alec Ainsworth, The University of Texas at Austin

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**Session 2d: Workshop: Weaving Arts-Based Research into the Thesis/Dissertation** (Room PUB209)

Chair: Anne Bettina Pedersen, Aalborg University

**Session 2e: New Approaches to German and Scandinavian Immigrant Experiences in the United States** (Room PUB269)

Chair: TBC

Commentator: Dag Blanck, Uppsala University, Augustana

German Immigrants, Homesickness, and Suicide  
Alison Efford, Marquette University

Beyond the Swedish Maid: The Modern Study of Gender and Swedish America  
Erika Jackson, Colorado Mesa University

Scandinavians Navigate Child Institutionalization in Chicago, 1870s–1890s  
Tina Larsen, University of Southern Denmark

**Session 2f: Pushing the Boundaries of Being** (Room PUB309)

Chair: TBC

Aspirations for Change - Moving on from Liminality in the Early Novels of Joseph McElroy

Tatu Pajula, Tampere University

The X Factor: Uncanny Ecologies in Jeff VanderMeer's *Annihilation*  
Zlatan Filipovic, University of Gothenburg

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From Anthropocentric Dystopia to Ecocentric Aspirations in Joan Slonczewski's  
*A Door into Ocean*

Hamid Masfour, Sultan Moulay Slimane University

Transhuman Magnificence and Apelike Monsters: Robinson Jeffers and the  
Aspirations of American Naturalism

Emelie Jonsson, UiT

**15:30-16:00 COFFEE BREAK**

**16:00-17:30 KEYNOTE ADDRESS I** (Room PUB1)

Chair: Benita Heiskanen

**We Go Low**

Elisabeth Anker, George Washington University

**17:30-19:00 NAAS GENERAL MEETING** (Room PUB1)

**19:00-21:00 CONFERENCE RECEPTION** (PUB Lobby)

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Turku, June 4-6, 2025 - DAY 2

## THURSDAY JUNE 5 (DAY 2)

### 8:30-9:30 REGISTRATION

### 8:45-09:15 AMERICAN STUDIES IN SCANDINAVIA UPDATE (Room PUB1)

Justin Parks, UiT

### 9:30-11:15 PARALLEL SESSIONS III

#### Session 3a: What Remains of the Common? Politics, Ethics, Aesthetics (Room PUB1)

Chair: TBC

Shattered Remains: Richard Wright on the Destiny of “the Common”  
Mikko Tuhkanen, Texas A&M University

An Incongruous Common: On *Being Alone* with Dean Sameshima  
Paul Ricco, University of Toronto

Seriality, Typicality, Fungibility: Echeverri’s Impersonal Common  
Tom Roach, Bryant University

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**Session 3b: Imagined Homelands – The Finnish-language Press in North America 1876-1923 and the Digital Study of Transnational Culture**

(Room PUB4)

Chair: TBC

Panelists:

Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen, National Library of Finland

Petri Paju, University of Turku

Hannu Salmi, University of Turku

Kirsti Salmi-Nikander, University of Helsinki

**Session 3c: Aspirations and Imageries in the 2024 Elections (Room PUB5)**

Chair: TBC

Latinos for Trump: Making Sense of the Emerging Realignment

Markku Ruotsila, University of Helsinki, LCC International University

Turning Texas Blue: Democratic Aspirations and the Electoral Evolution of Texas

Maxime Chervaux, Institut français de géopolitique

The Hand of God: Religious Signification in Trump's 2024 Presidential Campaign

Albion Butters, University of Turku

Donald Trump's 2024 Presidential Campaign and His Aspiration for Unlimited Power

Alf Tomas Tønnessen, University of Agder

Political Parody in Deepfake Videos of the 2024 US Presidential Election

Outi Hakola, University of Eastern Finland

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**Session 3d: Women's Bodies, Illness, and Trauma in American Musical Theatre: An Exploratory Workshop** (Room PUB209)

Chair: TBC

Panelists:

Brandi Andrade, University of Texas at Arlington

Katherine Burke, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University

Anne Healy, University of Texas at Arlington

**Session 3e: Promises Made, Promises Kept?** (Room PUB269)

Chair: TBC

Contested Jubilee: The Histories of the United States Bicentennial 1976

Ulf Zander, Lund University

"I Hear America Singing": Walt Whitman's Dream of a (Not So) Universal American Brotherhood

Zélia Catarina Pedro Rafael, University of Iceland

Is There Still Such a Notion as American Exceptionalism?

Zoltan Peterecz, Eszterházy Károly Catholic University

The American Dream and the Realities of Social Mobility

Welf Werner, Heidelberg University

Broken Houses: On Failed Aspirations in the Modern Middle Class Home

Tine Sommer, University of Southern Denmark

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**Session 3f: Imagined Geographies** (Room PUB309)

Chair: TBC

Era Bell Thompson: Mapping North Dakota, Africa, and the World

Cathryn Halverson, Mälardalen University

Versions of Inspiration, Aspiration and Suffocation in Carson McCullers' *The Ballad of the Sad Café*

Katalin Kallay, Károli Gáspár University

Picturing Appalachia: A Photographic Reckoning

Jarkko Tanninen, University of Nottingham

“A Few Blocks Was Everything”: Space and Mobility in Colson Whitehead’s *Harlem* Trilogy

Dirk van Rens, University of Eastern Finland

Contested Imaginaries in the Cosmopolitan Utopias of Claude McKay "Lost" Novels

Nahum Welang, Nord University

**11:30-13:00 NORDIC PLENARY II** (Room PUB1)

**Boundary Crossing, Religion, and Music**

Randall J. Stephens, University of Oslo

Nina Öhman, University of Helsinki, Finnish American Studies Association

**13:00-14:00 LUNCH**

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**14:00-15:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS IV**

**Session 4a: Power and Politics in the Twentieth Century (Room PUB1)**

Chair: TBC

"Do you think Jimmy Hoffa is buried in my backyard?": The Continuing Search for America's Most Notorious Union Leader

David Witwer, Penn State University

Meeting Indigenous Aspirations? The LBJ and Nixon Indian Messages and American Indian Self-Determination

Dean Kotlowski, Salisbury University

The Politics of Aspiration: The Second Red Scare and the (un)American Dream

Jodie Childers, Tulne University

Revolutionary Vanguard: Black Political Agency at the Turn of the 1970s

Antoni Górný, University of Warsaw

**Session 4b: Roundtable: The Aspirations and Challenges of Doing Historical Research of the United States in the Nordics (Room PUB4)**

Chair: TBC

Panelists:

Leyla Belle Drake, Uppsala University

Svein Máni Jóhannesson, University of Iceland

Grotle Rasmussen, University of Southern Denmark

Hilde Løvdal Stephens, University of Oslo

Oscar Winberg, University of Turku

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**Session 4c: Race, Class, and Cultural Expressions** (Room PUB5)

Chair: TBC

Ambition, Failure, and Wallace Thurman's Turn to Pulp Fiction

Sarah Gleeson-White, University of Sydney

Aspirational Masculinities on the Stand-up Stage

Tuula Kolehmainen, University of Turku

The 1970s, Energy Crisis, and Maternal Work in the Poems of Bernadette

Mayer and June Jordan

Justin Parks, UiT

Allen Polite: African American Poet in Sweden

Joel Duncan, University of Konstanz

**Session 4d: Experiences of Researchivism: Roundtable** (Room PUB209)

Chairs: Reetta Humalajoki, University of Turku; Mila Seppälä, University of Turku

Panelists:

Alice Baroni, University of Turku

Laura De Vos, Radboud University

Hải Nguyễn, University of Turku

Julie Sze, UC Davis

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### **Session 4e: Scandinavia Home and Abroad** (Room PUB269)

Chair: TBC

"To be the master of your own land, that is worth a lot": On Emigrants' Quest  
Away and Home

Helén Persson, Lund University

Aspiring to Belong Both as Early Settlers and Innocent Bystanders to  
Colonialism in North America: The Swedish Colony in Swedish and Finnish  
Youth Novels of the 1930s

Raita Merivirta, University of Turku

How Did Vilhelm Moberg Learn About Native Dakota People in Minnesota?  
Ursula Lindqvist, Gustavus Adolphus College

Be Scandinavian But Speak English: *The North*, a Failed Scandinavian-American  
Newspaper Venture in Minnesota, 1889-1894

Jørn Brøndal, University of Southern Denmark

### **Session 4f: Queer Stories** (Room PUB309)

Chair: TBC

Stonewall National Monument: Aspirations, Realizations, but Regrets?

Wayde Brown, University of Georgia

The Lesbian in the Garden: Queer Nature in Elsa Gidlow's *On a Grey Thread*

Aurora Eide, University of Tromsø

"Good God, Elizabeth, Here Comes Another One": Building a Nationwide  
Lesbian Community in WWII America

Katie Marshall, University of Sussex

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Breath, Dreams, Resistance: Aspiration as Wake Work in Black Queer Writing and Practice

Barbara Gfoellner, University of Vienna

**15:30-16:00 COFFEE BREAK**

**16:00-17:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS V**

**Session 5a: Hope or Disillusionment?: Cultural and Blue-Collar Workers' Aspirations in Hollywood (Room PUB1)**

Chair: TBC

Hollywood's Aspirational Reindustrialization

Mikkel Jensen, Aalborg University

Clashes in Craftworld: Showrunner Aspirations and Streaming Platform Goals

David Junke, University of Wrocław

The *Americano* Dream: Chicanos, Chicanas, and the History of an Idea

Anthony Macías, University of California, Riverside

**Session 5b: Navigating Cultural Tensions: Aspirations of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion across a U.S. Public Higher Education System (Room PUB4)**

Chair: TBC

Panelists:

David Cantaffa, State University of New York System Administration

Sinikka Grant, State University of New York Cobleskill

Ritu Radhakrishnan, State University of New York Oswego



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**Session 5c: Pedagogical Aspirations (Room PUB5)**

Chair: TBC

Women Interwove a Trans-local History of Hwa Nan College in the Early Twentieth Century

Shu Wan, University at Buffalo

Aspirations, Blind-Spots, and Disciplinary Imaginaries: A Survey of the Place of Film, Media and Popular Culture in *American studies in Scandinavia*, 1968-2024

Joel Frykholm, Stockholm University

Back to the Future: Old and New Utopias in the Cultural Studies Classroom

Chloé Avril, University of Gothenburg

**Session 5d: Experiences of Researchivism: A Zine-Making Workshop**

(Room PUB209)

Chairs: Reetta Humalajoki, University of Turku; Mila Seppälä, University of Turku

Panelists:

Alice Baroni, University of Turku

Laura De Vos, Radboud University

Hải Nguyễn, University of Turku

Julie Sze, UC Davis

**Session 5e: Finnish-American Relationships (Room PUB269)**

Chair: TBC

From Ethnic to Local: The Intersection of Regional Culture and Finnish America

Mirva Johnson, University of Wisconsin-Madison

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The American Aspirations to Aid the Grand Duchy of Finland  
Henri Oinas-Kukkonen, University of Oulu

The 20 Finnish Utopian Communities  
Teuvo Peltoniemi, Sosiomedia Oy

Finding Finns: Uncovering the Lived Experiences of Finnish Mariners in the  
American Civil War U.S. Navy  
Damian Shiels, Northumbria University

### **Session 5f: Love, Romance, Relationships (Room PUB309)**

Chair: TBC

Crying Hearts, Dead-End Roads: The Realist(ic) Fiction of Richard Yates  
András Basa-Tamás, Eötvös Loránd University

Romantic Love and New Sincerity in Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Marriage Plot*  
Elina Valovirta, University of Turku

Heiresses, Lonely Girls, and Marriage in the Turn-of-the-Century Urban America  
Aušra Paulauskienė, LCC International University

Transforming Tropes: Disney's Evolution in Cultural Sensibility and Social  
Themes

Viktoria Sophie Lühr, Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales

### **19:00 CONFERENCE DINNER (Restaurant Grädda)**

Requires registration (separate fee)

Turku, June 4-6, 2025 - DAY 3

**FRIDAY JUNE 6 (DAY 3)**

**8:30-9:30 REGISTRATION**

**9:30-11:00 PARALLEL SESSIONS VI**

**Session 6a: Native Americans and International Aspirations (Room PUB1)**

Chair: Reetta Humalajoki, University of Turku

Unexpected Aspirations: D'Arcy McNickle's Evolving Visions of Internationalism and Indigenous Futurity

Daniel Cobb, University of North Carolina

"An Indian Think Tank": Native American Transnational Aspirations for Intellectual Sovereignty

Lucie Kýrová, Charles University Prague

"Change in the Winds": Native American Aspirations for Human Rights During the Carter Administration

Jennifer O'Neal, University of Oregon

Imagine this Parallel Universe Today: The Radical Aspirations of the International Indian Treaty Council

György Tóth, University of Stirling

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**Session 6b: Heroes, Villains, and Tricksters** (Room PUB4)

Chair: TBC

Aspiring Tricksters in the Age of Ecophobia: Self-Worth in Andrew Niccol's *Gattaca* (1997)

Sophia Emmanouilidou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

You Get That It's a Joke, Right? - Parody, Satire, and Abortion in *Bojack Horseman*

Jonas Lindkvist, Lund University

Aspirations for Belonging: Ethnic Villains and the Struggle for Inclusion in Post-9/11 American Cinema

Rabeb Touihri, Eötvös Loránd University

Articulating Latin American Migrant Aspirations in U.S. Latinx Superhero Comics

Astrid Haas, University of Bergen

**Session 6c: Failures and Unfulfilled Dreams** (Room PUB5)

Chair: TBC

Too Many Dried Raisins in the Sun: Claudia Rankin's *Citizen: An American Lyric*

Yomna Saber, Qatar University

"Dope aged well, unfortunately": Jemele Hill and Van Lathan's *Way Down in the Hole* and Resisting Anti-Black Racism Through Reflective Nostalgia

Jeden Tolentino, Queen's University

Unfilled Womanhood: Infertility and Miscarriage in the Black Club Women's Movement

Elizabeth Gonzalez, independent scholar

## Turku, June 4-6, 2025 - DAY 3

Engaging in a History of Failures. The Aspirational Dimension of Judith Shklar's Political Thought

Moa Spegel, Södertörn University

### **Session 6d: Society, Democracy, and Ideals (Room PUB209)**

Chair: TBC

"Novels are Democracy in Action": Paul Auster's Democratic Fiction

Ira Hansen, University of Turku

Is There a Conservative Utopia? The Hidden Aspirations of Russell Kirk

Karoly Pinter, Pazmany Peter Catholic University

Contrasting Fantasies, Aaron Sorkin and the Political Right: Tensions between Aspirational American Narratives

Anna Ferrari, Sapienza University of Rome

Pure Aspiration or Actual Impact? Resisting Electoral Manipulation After the Attack on the Capitol

Maria Lindén, Finnish Institute of international Affairs, Tampere University

### **Session 6e: Alternative Pasts, Alternative Futures (Room PUB 269)**

Chair: TBC

Audre Lorde's Futurism

Melina Morr de Pérez, University of Erfurt

Nostalgia, Futurism, and De/Rehumanization of the Latinx Body in *The Ballad of Tita and the Machines*

Anna Marta Marini, Instituto Franklin-UAH

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Truth is Only a Matter of Time: Alternate History in Jim Lehrer's *Top Down* (2013)

Maria Wiegel, University of Cologne

Monumental Aspirations: Recalling for the Future

Lene Johannessen, University of Bergen

### **Session 6f: Activism, Rights, and Cultural Narratives** (Room PUB309)

Chair: TBC

Footnotes Against Institutions: Towards a Theory of (Academic) Refusal in the Campus Novel

Markus Schwarz, University of Salzburg

Aspirations of Intergenerational Human Rights Justice in the USA

Panteleimon Tsiokos, University of Western Ontario

James Kirchick, *Commentary Magazine*, and the Critique of the mid-2010s Intersectional Activism

Olli Saukko, University of Helsinki

Intersectionality and Cultural Memory. Reading Michelle Cliff's *Free Enterprise* (1993) as Intersectional Remembering

Kaisa Ilmonen, University of Turku

### **11:15-12:45 KEYNOTE ADDRESS II** (Room PUB1)

#### **Climate Justice Now!**

Julie Sze, UC Davis

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**12:45-13:45 LUNCH**

**13:45-15:15 PARALLEL SESSIONS VII**

**Session 7a: Landscapes and Lived Environments (Room PUB1)**

Chair: TBC

W.P. Webbs *The Great Plains* and the Attempt to Define the American West  
Andrew Graybill, Southern Methodist University

Natural Aspirations: The Vietnam War and Being in/with Nature  
Ron Ben-Tovim, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Empowered Settlers Set Adrift: *Survivor*, the American Pacific, and Asian  
American Masculinity  
Danielle Seid, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Aspirational Representations of an "Unremembered" War in Gina Apostol's  
*Insurrecto*  
Jenna Sciuto, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

**Session 7b: Aspiring Towards Collapse: Political Exit Movements and  
Imagineries of the End of the World (Room PUB4)**

Chair: TBC

"It's Easier to Imagine the End of the World than the End of Capitalism": Post-  
Left Future Visions of U.S. Society  
Jaakko Dickman, University of Turku

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“Go Armed”: Societal Collapse and the Political Identity of the Militia Movement

Niko Heikkilä, University of Turku

“Weak Men Create Hard Times”: Masculinity and the Imaginations of Societal Collapse in the Far-Right Vitalist Movement

Pekka Kolehmainen, University of Turku

“Becoming More Fabulous Together”: The Queer Politics of Radical Faeries

Mila Seppälä, University of Turku

### **Session 7c: Swedish Atlantic: New Directions in Swedish American Migration Histories I (Room PUB5)**

Chair: Lucia Hodgson, Uppsala University

Panelists:

New Sweden Texas: Swedish Settlers and Slavery in Nineteenth-Century Texas

Lucia Hodgson, Uppsala University

Crossing the Atlantic: Race and Slavery in Swedish Illustrations by Jenny Nyström

Åsa Bharathi Larsson, Södertörn University

From Threat to Threatened: Swedish American Whiteness as a Racial Project

Martin Lund, Malmö University

From Saint Barthélemey to Småland: A Mixed-Race Family in Nineteenth-Century Växjö

Håkan Nordmark, Kulturparken Småland

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The Swedish Atlantic and the Slave Trade, 1813–1836

Victor Wilson, Åbo Akademi

Respondent: Gunlög Fur, Linnaeus University

**Session 7d: Recovering and Teaching Nineteenth-Century American Women**

**Writers** (Room PUB209)

Chair: TBC

Panelists:

Sari Edelstein, University of Massachusetts-Boston

Travis Foster, Villanova University

Claudia Stokes, Trinity University

**Session 7e: Memory & Migration in Literature** (Room PUB269)

Chair: TBC

Belonging Out of Bounds: War, Migration, and Transcultural Memory in Atticus Lish's *Preparation for the Next Life*

Ari Räisänen, University of Eastern Finland

Aspiration Personified: Immigrant Stereotypes in *My New American Life* by Francine Prose

Marta Koval, University of Gdansk

Expanding Eligibility and (Re-)Defining Americanness: Migrant Writers, Literary Contests, and the National Canon

Ana Elisa Gomez Laris, University of Duisburg-Essen

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Romancing Naturalism: Cultural Memories of Masculinities and Genre  
Instability in the Work of Frank Norris  
Phillip Sams, University of Eastern Finland

**Session 7f: Self, Community, and Collaboration in Indigenous Studies**  
(Room PUB309)

Chair: TBC

"I can't help that God has made me So; I did not make my self so": Samson  
Occom and the Aspirational Indigenous Self  
Can Aydin, TU Dresden

South East Woodland American Indian Designs & Body Decoration Pre-Contact  
and Contact  
Jamie Oxendine, Lumbee Tribe of NC, Black Swamp Intertribal Foundation

Letters from the Singing Bowl: A Model for Artistic Collaboration for Indigenous  
Writers and Artists  
Kristiana Kahakauwila, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Aspirational Partnerships: Tribal Land Conservancies in the Wider Los Angeles  
County Region  
Sonja Salminiitty, University of Helsinki

**15:15-15:45 COFFEE BREAK**

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**15:45-17:15 PARALLEL SESSIONS VIII**

**Session 8a: Karl Marx in America: Author Meets Critics (Room PUB1)**

Chair: Anders Bo Rasmussen, Southern Denmark University

Panelists:

J. Michelle Coghlan, University of Manchester

Gregory Jones-Katz, Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften

Anton Jäger, KU Leuven, Oxford University

Respondent: Andrew Hartman, Illinois State University

**Session 8b: Envisioning "America" (Room PUB4)**

Chair: TBC

Civilization in Wax: Promoting America as the Heir of Western Civilization at the 1964 World's Fair

Elizabeth Kuebler-Wolf, University of Saint Francis

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

Adam Hjorthén, Uppsala University

May It Wave: The (D)evolving Symbolism of the American Flag

Nadia-Terese Franks, University of Glasgow

The Political Ethos the U.S. Declaration of Independence Carved and Its Contradictions

José Altran, University of Groningen, Universidade de São Paulo

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**Session 8c: Swedish Atlantic: New Directions in Swedish American Migration Histories II** (Room PUB5)

Chair: Marie Bennedahl, Linnaeus University

Panelists:

Swedish Women on Their Own: To America and Back Again in the Twentieth Century

Marie Bennedahl, Linnaeus University

Unsettling Moberg's Emigrant Series in Swedish-American Heritage Fiction

Jennifer Eastman Attebery, Idaho State University

Aspirational Scholarship: Scandinavian Studies and the Importance of Swedish Influence in the Early American Republic

Gregory Gaines, University of Maine

Swedish Migration and Settlement in Latin America: Gendered Histories

Anne Gustavsson, Umeå University; Jenny Ingridsson, Umeå University

"Swedish Workers Wanted": Labor, Race, and Gender among Chicago Swedes, 1890-1910

Erik Thosteman, Uppsala University

Respondent: Gunlög Fur, Linnaeus University

**Session 8d: Racial Justice in History and Literature** (Room PUB209)

Chair: TBC

Bringing Columbus Home: Buffalo Soldiers and Aspirations of Freedom in Italy at the end of World War II

Christian O'Connell, University of Gloucestershire

## Turku, June 4-6, 2025 - DAY 3

“...And Justice for All?” Aspirations for Racial Equality in the History of U.S. Supreme Court Cases

Samuli Hurri, University of Turku; Robert Winkler, Paris Lodron University of Salzburg

Christopher Columbus “C.C.” Haraway and the “Butter” Case: Education, Politics, Law, and Race in the Rural South During the Age of Segregation  
John Kirk, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Revolting Aspirations: Black Rebellion, White Revulsion, and The Case of Benito Cereno

Lee Flamand, Ruhr University Bochum

### **Session 8e: Geographic Aspirations and Road Blocks (Room PUB269)**

Chair: TBC

Oil and Progress in Mid-Twentieth-Century U.S. Cinema

Michael Fuchs, University of Innsbruck

Enduring Myths and Aspirations: The Last Frontier in Kristin Hannah’s *The Great Alone* (2018)

Catarina Moura, Nova University – FCSH

Aspirations on Wheels: A Road Towards Hope for Disability

Carmen Indurain, Public University of Navarre

Turku, June 4-6, 2025 - DAY 3

**Session 8f: Mental Health and American Psychiatry (Room PUB309)**

Chair: TBC

American Psychiatry Serving the Nation: Walking Hand in Hand to Create a Thriving America

Mia Pohtola, University of Helsinki

We Don't Pursue Happiness: Resisting Aspirational Thought in Ottessa Moshfegh's Female Protagonists

Laura Alvarez Trigo, Universidad de Valladolid

Dissociating to Spite the Patriarchy: Pessimism, Apathy, and Mental Health in Contemporary Women's Fiction

Marianne Kongerslev, Aalborg University

Sylvia Plath's aspiration: The Correspondence Between Life and Literature in a World Attentive to Mental Health

Francesco di Perna, Roma Tre University

**17:30-18:00 CLOSING REMARKS (Room PUB1)**

**19:00-01:00 AFTER CONFERENCE PARTY AT ULLAKKO**

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