

Det 31. Nordiske Historikermøde
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Book of Abstracts



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ROUNDTABLES

Session: RT-02-03 - Utmaningar för historielärarytutbildningen i de nordiska länderna

Date: 13-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00

Abstract(s):

Title: Utmaningar för historielärarytutbildningen i de nordiska länderna

Abstract ID: 312

David Ludvigsson¹, Kenneth Nyberg², Jan Lofström³, May-Brith Ohman Nielsen⁴, Heidi Eskelund Knudsen⁵,

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Historielärarytutbildningen är en utbildning som aktualiserar angelägna frågor om historisk kunskap och historievetenskapliga kompetenser, men det är också en utbildning som omgärdas av politiska spänningar och krav på praktiska anpassningar. I vår tid av krig, klimatförändringar, globalisering och liberaldemokratins kris finns idéer om att historieämnet i skolan behöver förändras, och ska förändringar ske måste de hanteras inom lärarytutbildningen.

Historielärarytutbildningar har berörts av flera forskare och diskuteras exempelvis av Sandwell & von Heyking (2014), Erdmann & Hasberg (2015), Berg & Christou (2020). Men historielärarytutbildningen i de nordiska länderna påverkas specifikt av de nordiska ländernas historia, våra skolsystem och även av den historiedidaktiska forskningen som är stark i vår del av världen. Vid detta roundtable kommer deltagarna att diskutera några utmaningar som vi ser som angelägna och reella i vår nordiska kontext. Det kan röra sig om bland annat 1) principer för att välja innehåll i en värld som präglas av både nationalism och globalisering, om 2) utmaningar som kommer av samläsning mellan lärarytutbildning och andra studentgrupper, eller 3) hur samhällets krav på lärare, ibland konkretiserade i examensmål, ska kunna förenas med kurser i historia.

Session: RT-02-11 - The new Handbook of Medieval Scandinavia: Issues and Challenges II

Date: 13-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00

Abstract(s):

Title: The New Handbook of Medieval Scandinavia: Issues and Challenges II

Abstract ID: 282

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² *Norwegian University of Science and Technology NTNU, Norway*

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⁶ *Aalborg University, Denmark*

This roundtable session deals with the concept behind a New Handbook of Medieval Scandinavia along with a discussion of key issues and challenges facing the editors and individual authors. Among the issues and key concept discussed will be the secular elite, its ideology and the norms and ideals dominating its culture. Another topic of debate will be issues relating to royal and ecclesiastical administration including coinage and minting; customs and laws; royal and ecclesiastical judicial practice; conflict resolution and the status, rights and obligations of women. Also discussed will be Christianization and the creation of a religious elite, the expansion and consolidation of an ecclesiastical organisation. the cults of the saints and their role in the Christianisation, and relations between the papacy and the local Churches, as well as the national and international networks of the religious elite. The relationship of indigenous peoples, such as the Saami and the Inuit, will be discussed in relation to the development of royal power in Medieval Scandinavia. Finally, there will be an analysis of the medieval barter economy and monetary and taxation, such as ecclesiastical dues and tithes and tariffs on trade.

Session: RT-03-01 - Veteran Communities of WWII in Northern Europe: Political Voices and Movement of Societal Boundaries

Date: 13-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Veteran Communities of WWII in Northern Europe: Political Voices and Movement of Societal Boundaries

Abstract ID: 42

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The Second World War witnessed not only conflicts on Nordic soil but also active participation of Nordic citizens in global conflicts. One significant outcome was the emergence of veteran communities spanning from regular army soldiers and resistance fighters to Nordic SS-volunteers. Even though the groups' political influence highly differed, depending on their wartime roles, we argue that they all moved societal boundaries in postwar Northern Europe.

We propose a roundtable discussion about the nuanced role of the Nordic WWII veteran communities. We aim to discuss how the veteran communities influenced postwar politics and societal dynamics. Drawing from our current research, we will examine how these communities formed, mobilized, and advocated for their rights and political influence and how this impacted areas such as welfare, healthcare, and national security strategies. Moreover, we will discuss how North European states were compelled to reassess their approaches towards punishment and social reintegration due to problematic veteran groups. Finally, we also discuss how veteran communities influenced the collective memory of their respective nations.

Thus, through comparisons and discussions of the complexities surrounding veteran communities of WWII., we seek to deepen our understanding of their enduring impact on the Nordic countries and beyond.

Session: RT-03-03 - Green Nordics? Histories of Energy Transitions, Green Mythmaking

Date: 13-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Green Nordics? Histories of Energy Transitions, Green Mythmaking and Environmental Realities

Abstract ID: 118

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History matters, also when it comes to the green transition(s) and the establishment of net-zero societies by 2050. Globally, the five Nordic countries are among those that have come furthest in the green transition of the energy sectors. This can be attributed to factors like political decisions, infrastructure, as well as natural and climatic conditions like the presence of water-rich rivers, hot geysers, or high winds. As recent historical scholarship has pointed out, though, there are many paradoxes in the history of Nordic energy transitions and myths about the (allegedly) Green Nordics. After World War II, the Nordics both developed renewable energy potentials from wind to geothermal, but at the same time became increasingly energy-hungry countries based on cheap fossil fuels, and remained so after the "green" turns of the 1970s. This roundtable will assemble historians from all five Nordic countries who have researched energy transitions, energy politics, infrastructures and environmental diplomacy, and scrutinize the histories of the Green Nordics. Were the Nordics really green pioneers? What can Nordic case studies tell us about energy transitions? What is the role of historians in deconstructing myths about the Green Nordics? And how can/should historians contribute to current transition debates?

Session: RT-03-05 - Oral history in the Nordic countries

Date: 13-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Oral history in the Nordic countries

Abstract ID: 113

Cathrine Hasselberg¹, Martin Englund², Hannah Yoken³, Gudmundur Jonsson⁴,
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In recent years, there have been several instances of Nordic collaboration in the field of Oral History, including the project 'Nordic Voices,' which resulted in a series of seminars and conferences. A more recent example is a forthcoming textbook in Norway, featuring contributions from oral historians from Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Iceland. While examples of Oral History can be found across these nations, the significant differences in the field's prevalence and status between the countries remain evident.

In the proposed roundtable, we have gathered contributors to the book to reflect on the differences in the status, organization, and approaches to Oral History among the countries, and most importantly, to discuss the past, present, and future of Oral History in the Nordic countries. What theoretical and methodological discussions are we preoccupied with? How and what can we learn from each other? How can we ensure collaboration in the Nordic countries in the future?

Chair: Cathrine Hasselberg

Session: RT-03-07 - The history of race science in Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden: A pan-Nordic roundtable discussion

Date: 13-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30

Abstract(s):

Title: The history of race science in Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden: A pan-Nordic roundtable discussion

Abstract ID: 19

Måns Ahlstedt Åberg¹, Jon Røyne Kyllingstad², Poul Duedahl³,

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Most Nordic countries have historical experiences of scientific research that revolved around the concept of “human races”. During the 19th and 20th centuries, there were several Nordic race researchers who achieved international fame, and in Sweden, Norway and Denmark, race research institutes were established; in Finland, one was planned, but the plans were never carried out. Much research has been conducted on these topics, and it is therefore surprising that there have been so few comparative discussions. Especially during the 1990s, many interesting comparisons were made regarding the eugenic sterilization policies that were implemented in the Nordic countries. Since then, it has been relatively quiet, which is unfortunate since the Nordic countries have similar – though not identical – historical experiences of race research. In this regard, we propose a pan-Nordic roundtable discussion with the aim of discussing and comparing the historiography of the different countries. What similarities and differences are there between how the research has been conducted, how has it influenced the public memory, and what does the future look like?

Session: RT-03-08 - Power Analyses in 2025 : Constructive Approaches for Cultural History

Date: 13-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Power Analyses in 2025 : Constructive Approaches for Cultural History

Abstract ID: 148

Mari Eyice ¹, Charlotta Forss ³, Lisa_Hellman_ ⁴, Birgit Tremml-Werner ⁵, Christa Wirth ⁶, **Dorothee Goetze**, ²

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Cultural history has been criticized for its lack of critical analysis, and failure to integrate hierarchies of power ever since the 1980s (and recent examples include Chatterjee 2012; Easterby-Smith 2019). As new and exciting subfields emerge, such as the history of experience, or climate history, this problem remains – or is exacerbated. In early modern history for example, certain source sets have taken on a hegemonic role, perpetuating analyses that downplay power relations. If we are aware of the problem, however, why has it not been tackled?

This roundtable is aimed at providing solutions: what tools do we have at our disposal, and what can be a constructive way forward? We do so by combining and contrasting a number of research fields within early modern history, namely: empire and the creation of social science, political history, climate and environmental history, gender in global history, and indigenous history and archival studies. We examine how these research fields are, or should be, drawing on insights from debates on indigenous history, class, silencing, coercion, and gender, showing constructive ways out of this half-century old tension.

Session: RT-03-09 - Contested borders, ongoing conflicts and history writing

Date: 13-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Contested borders, ongoing conflicts and history writing

Abstract ID: 305

Jens Johan Hyvik¹, Inger Marie Okkenhaug², Maria Småberg³,

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³ *Lund University, Sweden*

Contested borders often plays an important part in conflicts between nations. As historians we sometimes study and write about conflicts that are unresolved, including contested borders. The intensity of such conflicts may change in different periods, sometimes the intensity is "low" while at other times it is "hot". The conflict between Russia and Ukraine as well as between Israel and Palestine might be two examples where the conflict has escalated in recent years.

In this roundtable discussion we want to ask how historians write about conflicts that are unresolved, and maybe also during an escalation in the conflict in question. Does the context of an ongoing conflict influence how we write history? And if so, in what way does it affect our writing? How do we deal with questions about contested borders, both geographical borders as well as mental and narrative borders? What are our responsibilities as historians when we study an ongoing conflict, and does our responsibilities also include moral questions?

Inger Marie Okkenhaug and Jens Johan Hyvik recently published the book "Historien om Palestina og Israel i moderne tid" (2024).

Session: RT-03-10 - Presenting "Forced migrants in Nordic history"

Date: 13-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Presenting "Forced migrants in Nordic history"

Abstract ID: 27

, Miika Tervonen,¹ Seija Jalagin,² Malin Thor Tureby,³ Hans Otto Frøland,⁴ Heidi Vad Jønsson,⁵

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⁴ *Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway*

⁵ *University of Southern Denmark, Denmark*

The roundtable explores modern Nordic histories, memories and historiographies of refugeedom, based on the upcoming edited volume *Forced Migrants in Nordic Histories and Historiographies* due to be published in 2024 (Helsinki University Press). Conventional narratives of the Nordic countries and their pasts have systematically omitted histories of refugees, deportations, and other forms of forced migration, contributing to myths of homogeneous nations. The book discusses the regulation, representations and memories of forced migration. It highlights transnational connections across the Nordic region and points out how the marginalization of these histories in narratives of the Nordic past has obscured a constitutive element in the formation and imagining of Nordic societies in the twentieth century. The roundtable brings together editors of the book, representing perspectives from different Nordic countries, to discuss ongoing developments and challenges in re-writing forced migration – and forced migrants themselves – into the Nordic history.

Session: RT-03-12 - Menstrual Boundaries: Menstrual History in the Nordic Region

Date: 13-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Menstrual Boundaries: Menstrual History in the Nordic Region

Abstract ID: 81

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This roundtable presentation explores the intersection of two critical topics: boundaries and menstrual history. As founders of the Menstrual Studies in Scandinavia (MeSS, 2022) network, we created MeSS to compile, produce, share, and analyze scholarship about menstruation in the context of the Nordics. We aim for interdisciplinary exploration that is sensitive to local cultural differences and languages, technoscientific contexts, histories, and lived experiences. As part of this roundtable, we will share some of our findings, including how language creates intellectual boundaries among historians. We will explore how our own work as historians seeks to break down these national and/or language boundaries. We will discuss scholarship that examines how the material environment and menstrual products, and therefore the lived experiences, differed in Finland, Sweden, and Norway from World War II to the 1970s; the history of Finnish shower hoses and their role as menstrual technology in the Nordics; and the transnational exchange of menstrual education between the Nordics and the US during the 20th century. By building larger and more sustainable regional research communities and connecting historical scholarship with public activism, MeSS challenges existing boundaries and contributes to a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of menstrual history.

Session: RT-04-07 - Writing the History of the Nordic Reformation

Date: 14-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Writing the History of the Nordic Reformation

Abstract ID: 249

Morten Fink-Jensen¹, Arthur der Weduwen³, Merike Kurisoo⁴, Haraldur Hreinnsson⁵, Charlotte Appel⁶, **Steffie Schmidt**²

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⁴ *Art Museum of Estonia, Estonia*

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⁶ *Aarhus University, Denmark*

Based on the work on the forthcoming book, the Brill *Companion to the Nordic Reformation* (out in 2026), this roundtable aims to discuss the advantages and challenges of a comprehensive view of the Reformation in the Nordic world, ranging from the North Atlantic to the Baltic, c. 1500-1700. Key questions to be addressed at the roundtable include: To what extent is it possible to discuss themes across the region rather than concentrating on a single country or kingdom exclusively? Does taking the longer view of the Reformation, c. 1500-1700, allow for a thorough or relevant perspective? How and at what pace did Reformation ideas spread northwards from other parts of Europe, and how did the transformation of these ideas (to the extent they were ever integrated) into politics and practical life proceed in the different parts of the Nordic region? And how can due attention be paid to the interaction, non-conformity or conflict between the Nordic churches and the population?

Session: RT-05-09 - From warrior kings to tree-huggers? Peace(ful) perspectives on earlymodern Scandinavian history

Date: 14-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00

Abstract(s):

Title: From warrior kings to tree-huggers? Peace(ful) perspectives on earlymodern Scandinavian history

Abstract ID: 189

Joachim Östlund¹, Thomas Ewen Daltveit Slettebø², Dorothee Goetze³, Johannes Ljunberg¹, Jenni Merovuo⁴,

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⁴ *University of Eastern Finland, Finland*

The quest for peace is omnipresent in today's media. It is not a characteristic of our time, but it can also be found in the past: From 1611 to 1721, the Nordic countries experienced more years of war than peace, many of these wars were fought between Sweden and Denmark. The Great Northern War (1700–1721) was a turning point, separating centuries of war from an era of peace. Between 1721 and 1814, the inhabitants of Sweden-Finland experienced war for only 14 years, while Denmark-Norway experienced peace that lasted with small interruptions until 1807. So far, this striking example of shifting experiences of war and peace has not been explored, as research still focuses more on war than on peace.

This roundtable discusses the possibilities of conducting Nordic peace studies in the early modern period. The discussion is based on ongoing research within the project *Pax Nordica: Experiences and lessons of the Nordic Peace, ca 1721-1830* (NordForsk). Drawing on examples from Finland, Norway, Denmark and Sweden, this session will present and discuss analytical concepts that introduce a way forward for peace studies based on a unique but also varied experience of peace in the Nordic region during the long 18th century.

Session: RT-06-06 - Unveiling Complexities: Navigating the Challenges in Antisemitism Research

Date: 14-08-2025 - 14:00 - 16:00

Abstract(s):

Title: Unveiling Complexities: Navigating the Challenges in Antisemitism Research

Abstract ID: 180

Mercédesz Czimbalmos¹, Vibeke Moe², Lars M_Andersson³,

¹ *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

² *The Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies, Norway*

³ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

The dangers antisemitism poses to democratic as well as to non-democratic societies are widely recognized. Antisemitism is not solely a “Jewish problem” but a problem affecting Jewish communities and individuals, whilst being a threat to national security, pluralism, and democracy - or its potential - in a globalized world. Researching antisemitism requires historians, as well as researchers of other disciplines to create new theoretical and empirical approaches to effectively describe, decode, and explain the phenomena, and thus, to contribute to not only the advancement of the scientific field, but also, to strengthening democracies, and social cohesion. This roundtable discussion will address differences as well as similarities between Nordic trends and global developments on the research field of both historical and contemporary antisemitism. It will highlight the challenges of researching the phenomena, and will tackle the issues with currently existing theoretical approaches and definitions of it, in order to seek a better understanding of the complexity of antisemitism and its manifestations.

Session: RT-06-07 - Challenging boundaries: Ocean liner passenger narratives as travel writing

Date: 14-08-2025 - 14:00 - 16:00

Abstract(s):

Title: Challenging boundaries: Ocean liner passenger narratives as travel writing

Abstract ID: 222

Malin Gregersen¹, Eleonor Marcussen¹, Emilie Wellfelt², Birgit Tremml-Werner³, Sanjukta Das Gupta⁴,

¹ *Linnaeus University, Sweden*

² *Lund University, Sweden*

³ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

⁴ *Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy*

Transoceanic travels have played a profound role for colonial interactions and encounters of people across borders as well as to the transfers and clashes of concurrent ideas and worldviews. Even though many individuals moving between Asia and Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries traveled by ship, their experiences and narratives from the journeys have been largely overlooked. This goes contrary to the information that can be drawn from the often rich source materials: time onboard the ships provided plenty of opportunities to write and to make preparations for life at the destination. Through interactions on board, the ship became a learning space, where knowledge about life at the destinations was discussed and shared. The journey thus served as a contact zone for extensive exchanges between actors who otherwise would not interact, such as colonial officials, missionaries and luck-seekers.

This roundtable gathers scholars for a methodological discussion of ocean liner passenger narratives as travel writing based on their work on the experiences and expectations of men, women, government officials, missionaries, students and migrant workers, either leaving or returning to their home countries, to get to terms with the world they left behind and the lives they headed to.

Session: RT-06-13 - The Local Labour Movement and the International Context

Date: 14-08-2025 - 14:00 - 16:00

Abstract(s):

Title: The Local Labour Movement and the International Context

Abstract ID: 184

Isak Törnqvist¹, Carl-Erik Strandberg², Ole Martin Rønning³, Matias Kaihovirta²,

¹ *Umeå universitet, Sweden*

² *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

³ *Arbeiderbevegelsens arkiv og bibliotek, Norway*

Like all political movements, the labour movement was influenced by both the local context in which it existed and the international context that could affect the movement concretely or provide it with new impulses. This was especially true during the First World War and the beginning of the inter-war period. The fall of the 'Ancien Régime,' combined with growing democratization in a context of political turbulence, led not only to typical examples of conflicts and the eventual split within the SPD or the creation of 'Red Vienna' but also to countless instances of local conflicts, problems, opportunities, and activist activities.

In our round table discussion, we explore how the local labour movement developed and changed in different parts of the Nordic countries during this period. We emphasize how local areas and communities were affected by larger forces on the national and international levels and possibly vice versa. By combining our different areas of interest, we hope to shed light on this topic while also comparing and discussing each other's findings.

Isak Törnqvist, Umeå universitet

Carl-Erik Strandberg, Åbo Akademi

Ole Martin Rønning, Arbeiderbevegelsens arkiv og bibliotek

Matias Kaihovirta, Åbo Akademi (moderator)

Session: RT-07-05 - The boundaries of witnessing and documenting the Holocaust and the Genocide of the Roma in Sweden

Date: 14-08-2025 - 16:30 - 18:30

Abstract(s):

Title: The boundaries of witnessing and documenting the Holocaust and the Genocide of the Roma in Sweden

Abstract ID: 192

Karin Kvist Geverts¹, Malin Thor Tureby², Simo Muir³, **Andrej Kotliartchouk**,³

¹ *Institute for Holocaust Research in Sweden (IHRS), Sweden*

² *Malmö universitet, Sweden*

³ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

This roundtable is organized by two research groups who are both funded by the Swedish Research Council's call for research into the Holocaust, victims of the Holocaust and antisemitism, and includes the project "Memory and Activism. Survivors Remembering, Commemorating and Documenting the Holocaust" led by Professor Malin Thor Tureby, Malmö University, and "Witnessing for the future. Holocaust, Sweden and Forgotten Early Testimonies" led by Professor Andrej Kotliartchouk, Uppsala University. The participants will discuss the boundaries of witnessing in documenting and commemorating the Holocaust and the Genocide of the Roma, by exploring topics such as the boundaries between the private and the public as well as between the local/national and transnational in testimonies. We will also delve into the role of language and the position of the survivor in society as conditions for being able to express one's experiences and/or being heard when witnessing or recounting about one's experiences.

Participants: Malin Thor Tureby, Professor, Department of Society, Culture and Identity, Malmö University Andrej Kotliartchouk, Professor, Department of History, Uppsala University; Karin Kvist Geverts, Associate Professor, Department of History, Uppsala University and The Institute for Holocaust Research in Sweden (IHRS); Simo Muir, Associate Professor, Department of History, Uppsala University.

**Session: RT-07-14 - Is there a Nordic Way of Doing
Microhistory? IV Roundtable discussion**

Date: 14-08-2025 - 16:30 - 18:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Roundtable and Discussions:

Abstract ID: 734

Thomas V. Cohen¹, Elizabeth S. Cohen¹,

¹ *York University, Canada*

Session: RT-08-01 - City faces. Facial recognition as a method in the meeting between macro- and micro-history of the city

Date: 15-08-2025 - 09:00 - 10:30

Abstract(s):

Title: City faces. Facial recognition as a method in the meeting between macro- and micro-history of the city

Abstract ID: 119

Rebecka Lennartsson¹, Mats Hayen²,

¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

² *Stockholm University, Sweden*

In City Faces. Visual Culture and Social Structure in Stockholm 1880-1930, 40,000 portrait photographs from Stockholm's City Museum are digitized and linked together with the Stockholm City Archives' database Rotemansarkivet. Identified faces are enriched with demographic and social data and analyzed based on the international occupational codes HISCO and HISCLASS.

Cultural heritage institutions collaborate with universities. Partial studies examine social aspects that emerge in the meeting between portrait and life story. A strange album from the morality police with portraits of women is studied closely. The project develops face recognition for historical portraits. The method is used to identify faces without names and connect portraits in different collections. In an interactive map that shows the city's development, results is visualized in new ways. The methods create opportunities to make available, enrich, research and educationally explain visual culture and social structures during a period of intense urbanization.

In the conversation, we want to focus on how new technology can be used to create methods for investigating history that span between extensive datasets and microhistory.

Anders Hast, Prof, Information Technology, Uppsala University, Mats Hayen, research leader, Ph.D., history, Stockholm City Archives, Rebecka Lennartsson, head of research, Ass Prof, ethnology, Stockholm City Museum.

Session: RT-08-02 - Limes, Boundaries, Borders and the Question of Historical Change

Date: 15-08-2025 - 09:00 - 10:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Limes, Boundaries, Borders and the Question of Historical Change

Abstract ID: 66

Göran Rydén¹, Vilhelm Vilhelmsson², Hanne Østhus³, Östman Ann-Catrin⁴,

¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

² *University of Iceland, Iceland*

³ *Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway*

⁴ *Åbo akademi, Finland*

In one of his not-so-known book, *The Identity of France*, tries Fernand Braudel to explain the location of Lyon, at the confluence of Loire and Saône, by the power of 'nature'. Braudel was no stranger in dealing with 'delineations' in his writings, far from it. Apart from 'natural hindrances' he divided the World, inspired by the World System Theory, into different concentric zones spreading from an urban centre, but he also made social distinctions within the societies he analysed. Perhaps his most important legacy is viewing the historical development into three overlapping sequences, from the slow-movements of 'his' *la longue durée* to cyclical time and events. Other scholars have, of course, also discussed different forms of distinctions, and in this session we aim to proceed along a path made by previous scholars, about *Limes, Boundaries and Borders*, but we want to take one step further by relate that to the ultimate aim of all historians, to understand and explain historical change. Our discussion will focus on setting boundaries, reaching limits and transgressing borders, and will proceed from a variety of different types of *limes*.

Session: RT-08-05 - Is there a future for “early modernity”? A roundtable on diverse perspectives and new approaches

Date: 15-08-2025 - 09:00 - 10:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Is there a future for “early modernity”? A roundtable on diverse perspectives and new approaches

Abstract ID: 69

Patrick Van der Geest ¹, Tabea Hochstrasser,² Emil Andersen,^{3, 4} Mathias Karlsmose,⁵ Anna-Stina Hägglund,⁶ Lisa Hellman,¹

¹ Lund University, Sweden

² Umeå university, Sweden

³ University of Copenhagen, Denmark

⁴ National Museum of Denmark, Denmark

⁵ Stockholm University, Sweden

⁶ University of Turku, Finland

“Early modernity” is a frequently used concept to signify a certain chronology, periodisation, societal changes (concerning, for instance, connectivity, religion, borders, centralisation, or identity), as well as researchers’ identity. Simultaneously, “early modernity” has been criticised as an analytical tool, and for its supposed Eurocentric, universalist, and exclusionary implications. That being known, what do we do now?

We are proposing a roundtable session that brings together five historians, each specialising in distinctly different topics, geographical areas, and historical periods, with a common interest in critically examining “early modernity”. The goal of this session is not only for the participants to explore the applicability and usefulness of this concept, but crucially to propose alternative approaches and concepts.

This allows a debate starting – but not ending – in concepts including multiple modernities, varieties of modernity, globalisation, spatio-temporal hybridisation, and the relational turn, and offers an opportunity to reflect on other recent – and increasingly popular – coinages like ‘the pre-modern’, the ‘pre-industrial’, and the ‘pre-national’. As historians try to move beyond binary, dichotomous, or “modernity-driven” thinking, this allows for a more open ended, global conceptualisation.

Session: RT-08-13 - The urban narrative in Nordic countries

Date: 15-08-2025 - 09:00 - 10:30

Abstract(s):

Title: The urban narrative in Nordic countries

Abstract ID: 252

Heiko Droste¹, Fanny-Johanna Reinikka², Steinar Aas³, Mikkel Høghøj⁴, Matti O. Hannikainen², **Laura Kolbe**²

¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

² *University of Helsinki, Finland*

³ *Nord University, Norway*

⁴ *National Museum of Denmark, Denmark*

The Nordic countries have been urbanized rather late, albeit thoroughly, as a result of the countries' industrialization as well as the implementation of welfare states in 20th century. The countries have, therefore, not only been perceived as rural in its economic features. The rural captured the historical imagination of the respective nations' cultures. It is the peasantry that gained substantial attention among historians.

The role of cities within the national imaginary is, therefore, not as self-evident as in other European cultures. There are some handbooks on national urban histories as well as city monographs. However, the number of urban historians is comparatively small. Moreover, the Nordic urban history is poorly represented in European handbooks on urban history, most likely out of a perception that the urban culture of the North is less advanced, compared to Western European urban ideals.

We want to discuss the question of the urban narrative in the Nordic countries and maybe propose a different understanding of urbanity, which more suits the Nordic urban cultures.

Session: RT-09-10 - Arctic and Indigenous Labour History

Date: 15-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00

Abstract(s):

Title: Arctic and Indigenous Labour History

Abstract ID: 135

Silke Neunsinger¹, Inger Jonsson¹, Åsa Össbo², Matias Kaihovirta³, Johanna Overud⁴, **Inger-Britt Keisu**⁴, **Lars Berggren**⁵, **Roger Johansson**⁶

¹ *Arbetarrörelsens arkiv och bibliotek, Sweden*

² *Umeå university, Sweden*

³ *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

⁴ *Umeå universitet, Sweden*

⁵ *Lund University, Sweden*

⁶ *Malmö universitet, Sweden*

In this roundtable, we want to highlight what can be gained from crossing the border between different research fields. The focus is on the Arctic and how today's green transformation as well as earlier industrialisation have affected the livelihoods of people living in the area. This is a vital subject for indigenous studies, but the transformation processes of industrialisation in general have always been central to labour history. While indigenous studies have become important in labour history in Canada, Australia, and the US, it has only recently been recognised in the Nordic countries. It is highly likely that by letting labour history meet Indigenous studies we will get new perspectives on the history of industrialisation in the Arctic.

To cross the border between different research fields is seldom easy and differences in theoretical and methodological approaches must be considered. But there is much to be gained by trying. The participants in this panel will discuss how such a meeting can take place between Indigenous studies and labour history. What new questions will be raised? How can different approaches be adjusted to gain new knowledge? Are there any examples to learn from?

Session: RT-10-01 - Humanitarian aid in history

Date: 15-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Humanitarian aid in history

Abstract ID: 87

Olof Blomqvist¹, Norbert Götz², Seija Jalagin³, Inger Marie Okkenhaug⁴, **Lina Sturfelt**⁵, **Sari Nauman**¹

¹ *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

² *Södertörn University, Sweden*

³ *University of Oulu, Finland*

⁴ *Volda University College, Norway*

⁵ *Lund University, Sweden*

Humanitarian aid is a central topic in contemporary political and ethical discourse. Calls for compassion with victims of violence, oppression, and natural disasters are commonly motivated by reference to humanitarianism, proclaiming the principle of universal human solidarity. However, the questions of who is eligible to receive aid and on what premises aid is based are highly contested, and scholars claim that humanitarianism has never been universal. Moreover, the same principles that aim at mobilizing compassion have been accused of cementing relationships of inequality between those who provide aid and the vulnerable people who receive it.

This roundtable discussion aims at better understanding the development of humanitarian aid in the Nordic region, from the early 18th century to the mid-20th century. As such, it directly questions the universality of humanitarianism and investigates how lines between deserving and undeserving recipients have been drawn over time. Main questions are: Can we investigate humanitarianism from a long-term perspective? Who has had the authority to define a humanitarian problem? On what grounds has humanitarian aid been motivated and what were the criteria for receiving it? How has humanitarian aid shaped – and how has it been shaped by – the relationship between provider and recipient?

Session: RT-10-04 - Objects of Knowledge

Date: 15-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Objects of Knowledge

Abstract ID: 251

Laura Skouvig¹, Maria Sofie Simonsen², Dunja Blazevic⁴, Heikki Kokko⁵, **Kajsa Weber**,³

¹ *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

² *Aalborg University, Denmark*

³ *LUCK Lund Centre for the History of Knowledge, Sweden*

⁴ *Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway*

⁵ *Tampere University, Finland*

In recent years, Nordic research in the history of knowledge has explored the boundaries of the history of knowledge by examining knowledge circulation, arenas, and actors. All implicate, to a greater or lesser extent, the objects through which knowledge circulates or is used to produce knowledge.

In this roundtable, we discuss whether materiality helps to delimit the history of knowledge as a field or whether the material forms of knowledge contribute to exploring new boundaries for the history of knowledge. Knowledge is formed and performed in the borderland between object, form, genre, and content. From book history, we can borrow questions such as how the book as an object stores knowledge and, with its different formats, can present knowledge to very different readers. From the perspective of genre theory, we can ask how new genres create new forms of knowledge and how new forms of knowledge create new genres. Knowledge is created using objects, and we will discuss to what extent the thing itself does something and performs knowledge. At the same time, is knowledge created about objects – or are objects produced through knowledge? This is another perspective that we will discuss in this roundtable.

Session: RT-10-12 - Collaborating the digitized turn. Archives and scholars in discussion

Date: 15-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Collaborating the digitized turn. Archives and scholars in discussion

Abstract ID: 340

Rakel Adolphsdóttir¹, Hafdís Erla Hafsteinsdóttir², Örjan Simonson³, Margit Bech Vilstrup⁴,

¹ *Kvennasögusafn, Landsbókasafn, Iceland*

² *University of Iceland, Iceland*

³ *Folkrörelsearkivet i Uppsala län, Sweden*

⁴ *Arbejdermuseet, Denmark*

Over the last decade, several projects both collecting research data concerning historical research in databases and digitizing archival materials have been completed. Some of these have been collaborations between the archive owners, like the trade unions or political organisations, and the archives. Others have been joint efforts between the archive institutions and scholars to facilitate research. But many times, decisions on what to digitize have been taken without consideration to long-term preservation of the digital material, or without considering the usefulness of the material concerning other archival collections. This panel will share thoughts and concerns regarding these practices. Drawing from experiences from projects and collaborations from the past, the discussion aims to raise awareness among researchers and scholars when creating these kind of projects.

Participants

Örjan Simonson, head of institution at Folkrörelsearkivet (the popular movements archive) in Uppsala.

Margit Bech Vilstrup, researcher working on large data corpora and curator at the Labour Museum (Arbejdermuseet) in Copenhagen.

Chair: Jonas Söderqvist, Swedish Labour Movements Archives and Library

Session: RT-11-11 - Statehood and constitutional development in Scandinavia and Southern Europe 1776-1822

Date: 15-08-2025 - 16:00 - 18:00

Abstract(s):

Title: Statehood and constitutional development in Scandinavia and Southern Europe 1776-1822

Abstract ID: 709

Bård Frydenlund¹, Maurizio Isabella², Nicolai Von Eggers³, Marthe Hommerstad⁴,
Tiago Matos,

¹ *Stiftelsen Norsk Folkemuseum; Eidsvoll 1814, Norway*

² *Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom*

³ *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

⁴ *National Library of Norway, Norway*

Description*

The political thought and historical contexts that paved the way for the American and French revolutions had far reaching effects. In their wake, the Napoleonic wars ravaged the European landscape, not only geographically, but also politically and socially.

The panel sets out to elucidate and discuss the constitutional development, in both ideas and in statehood, in some of the affected areas – particularly those in the north and south of Europe. It is the hope of the participants that this novel comparative perspective will yield new knowledge about the proliferation of ideas and effects of historical events; Which ideas were in circulation for the new states? How were they implemented, if at all? And how did they affect the development of the nation states that came into being during the long 19th century?

Topic (Proposal)

Age of revolutions and constitutions

Session: RT10-02 - Border-crossing for business and pleasure: The Sweden boats/Finland ferries case

Date: 15-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Border-crossing for business and pleasure: The Sweden boats/Finland ferries case

Abstract ID: 60

Klara Arnberg¹, Martin Eriksson², Louice Bådholm³, Riikka Taavetti⁴, **Daniel Normark**³

¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

² *Umeå university, Sweden*

³ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

⁴ *University of Turku, Finland*

This roundtable addresses the history of the ferry traffic between Finland and Sweden as a form of crossing Nordic borders and creating intra-Nordic connections. These ferries, enabled by the common Nordic labor market and the passport union, became the largest passenger ferries in the world in the 1970s and 1980s, and have had great cultural impact in both countries. The discussion addresses the ferries as a site of transbordering markets for entertainment, tax-free consumer goods and drinks and as a form of leisure and traveling. In the roundtable, we depart from two different but interconnected research projects, discussing how borders have influenced and enabled certain commercial and business practices, and how notions of gender, nationality, class and sexuality have played into the development of cruising and tourism.

ORAL SESSIONS

Session: S-01-01 - The Cold War: Cultural History and Memory**Date: 13-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: The line between formal and informal Danish diplomacy in Russia and Ukraine 1917-1920**Abstract ID: 166**Steen Andersen¹,¹ *Rigsarkivet, Denmark*

Throughout the First World War, the Danish Red Cross played a significant role in Russia. From the end of 1917, the relief work for prisoners of war also extended to the new Ukrainian republics that emerged in the wake of the revolution. In December 1918, Denmark was formally forced by the Western powers to close its diplomatic legation in Petrograd. The Danish Red Cross then took over the informal role of Denmark's diplomatic representatives with offices in Moscow and Kyiv. In the midst of a war between Russia and Ukraine, and between white and red forces and Polish intervention, the Danish Red Cross tried to help the victims of the war. This relief work brought the Danish Red Cross on a collision course with the Danish Foreign Ministry and the International Red Cross. Based on source studies, this paper will shed light on Danish aid work in a chaotic Ukraine, where Kyiv changed hands 11 times in just two years of war. The research question in this paper is: Where was the boundary between Denmark's official and Danish Red Cross interests and did Denmark informally become a part in the conflict.

Title: Shifting Foreign Policy Identities: Iceland's Memory Contest over Neutrality and Alignment**Abstract ID: 290**Valur Ingimundarson¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

In the paper, I deal with the politics of memory surrounding changes and continuities in Iceland's external orientation and state identity since the end of World War I. Iceland's abandonment of non-alignment in favor of integration into a Western Alliance after World War II is usually seen as constituting a break, leading to a new—and more contested—national narrative. Yet, as I argue, important traces of an older

neutralist narrative—coupled with wartime occupation experiences—not only informed counter-memories but also became part of a new collective memory. While the framing and manifestations of what became, at times, an intense memory battle over Iceland’s foreign policy orientation will be analyzed from a national perspective, it will be grounded within a broader transnational context by tying it to Icelandic perceptions of, and relations with, other states and to metanarratives, such as World War II, the Cold War, and the post-Cold War period.

Title: Danish-Icelandic links and exchanges in the Cultural Cold War

Abstract ID: 270

Dino Knudsen¹,

¹ *Malmö universitet, Sweden*

This paper explores the activities of the Congress for Cultural Freedom (CCF) in Scandinavia, 1950-1967. The paper focuses on CFF-coordination that took place from Copenhagen and the links established in Iceland, in the context of the Cultural Cold War.

The CCF was the largest covert Central Intelligence Agency program of its kind, in terms of activities, budgets and longevity. The CCF organized local subchapters in more than 30 countries, involving renown intellectuals such as Arthur Koestler, Hannah Arendt and Bertrand Russell, and published influential cultural journals on all continents, including several in Scandinavia. Combatting totalitarianism, the CCF activities contributed to a positive view of American culture and the spread of an anti-communist “Cold War modernism”. On the political level, the CCF contained communist peace initiatives, combatted neutralist tendencies, promoted Cold War consensus liberalism, and common security in NATO.

Title: Norway, NATO, and the East German Problem: International Sporting Events in Norway in the 1960s

Abstract ID: 12

Heather Dichter¹,

¹ *De Montfort University, United Kingdom*

In response to the Berlin Wall, NATO imposed travel restrictions on East Germans, including preventing athletes representing East Germany from crossing NATO

borders to compete. Norway, as a dominant winter sport country, confronted this issue when hosting several European and world championships and the annual

Holmenkollen ski jump competition. Norway even tried to secure a skiing exception to the travel ban so world champion Helmut Recknagel could compete at the Holmenkollen. Oslo was also one of four NATO cities bidding for the 1968 Olympic Winter Games and had to provide a travel guarantee to the International Olympic Committee. Those states created a working group at NATO to draft the guarantee to ensure they maintained alliance policy but did not ruin any city's chances. Norwegian diplomats therefore took a leading role at NATO, challenging the role of the alliance's dominant states while trying to balance national interests with maintaining alliance policy.

Session: S-01-02 - Bordering & Othering: A line in mind and territory between Danish and German**Date: 13-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Steen Bo Frandsen: Schleswig from in-between to divided borderlands**Abstract ID: 665****Steen Bo Frandsen¹,****¹ *University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark***

In the past the national conflict between Denmark and Germany and the efforts to define a national border has almost exclusively been perspectivated from outside the region. Defining Schleswig not as an object of nationalist expectations, but as an in-between of flows, cultural and linguistic plurality turns the focus around. Inspired from international research on nationalism and border regions this intervention proposes a different approach to the matter taking regional traditions and potentials serious. It deals with regional identities, regionalism, bordering and othering in a border region to be. It raises questions of the fate of in between-ness in a political order of acclaimed unambiguety.

Title: Nikolaj Bjerggaard Olesen: National Languages: The Politicization and Negotiation of Language Usage in Sleswig**Abstract ID: 666****Nikolaj Bjerggaard Olesen¹,****¹ *University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark***

During the first half of the 19th century, several language rescripts were issued for the multilingual area of Sleswig. Historiographically, the significance of these decrees has been interpreted in various ways, albeit primarily within the narrative framework of the impending 'national conflict' between Danish vis-á-vis German. As such, the language decrees were both precursors to and facilitators of the commonly emphasized language conflict. By combining historical and sociolinguistic methodologies, this paper looks to investigate the local negotiations of such language policies and seeks to discern how people accommodated to these – if at

all; to discover other qualifying parameters that, perhaps, would go beyond the trope of 'conflict'.

Title: Sine Krogh: Politicizing the Aesthetics: The Othering of Border-crossing Artists

Abstract ID: 667

Sine Krogh¹,

¹ ***University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark***

Politicizing the Aesthetics: The Othering of Border-crossing Artists

From the late 1830s a growing emphasis on artistic identity as a national matter posed challenges for the bilingual (especially Danish German-speaking) painters residing in Copenhagen. Following the conflicts in the conglomerate Danish state of drawing a line between German and Danish cultures, painterly style became not just a question of artistic schooling. Art came to be seen as a reflection of political sympathies by leading members of the national-minded cultural elite. Drawing on John Hutchinson's notion on "zones of conflict" this paper will analyse the mechanisms of nationalisation in the Danish art world by taking as examples the painters Elisabeth Jerichau Baumann and Johann Hermann Carmiencke.

Title: Anna Sandberg: Border-crossing practices and cultural politics of the Danish Golden Age

Abstract ID: 668

Anna Sandberg¹,

¹ ***University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark***

Border-crossing practices and cultural politics of the Danish Golden Age

In Danish cultural history the period from 1814 to 1848 is normally described as a "golden age" cultivating Danish language, literature and history. This construction of a pure Danish and Nordic identity builds on the "othering" of Germanness and German language due to the political tensions culminating in the first Schleswig war 1848-1851. However, two of the most canonized Danish authors of the period, Adam Oehlenschläger and Hans Christian Andersen crossed the mental and geographical

borders with Danish-German bicultural practices: they published in German, traveled in Germany and maintained a Danish-German network with the German nobility in

Copenhagen and the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein. This story mainly still remains untold. The presentation will analyse the dynamics of the border-crossing practices and the cultural politics of nationalization in the first half of the 19th Century.

Session: S-01-03 - Educational systems and history teaching in Sweden**Date: 13-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: History teaching and the development of historical consciousness? Digital technology and history in Swedish secondary schools**Abstract ID: 261**Mikael Bruér¹,¹ *Malmö universitet, Sweden*

Since the early 21st century, digital technology has become integral to the Swedish educational system. Driven by policymakers and market actors, ideological claims and economic values precede epistemological questions and didactical concerns.

Swedish history teaching aims to develop students' historical consciousness and historical knowledge. However, knowledge about how technology impacts history teaching is limited.

This PhD project examines digitalised history teaching in Swedish secondary schools, focusing on the interaction between history education and digital technology. Using a modified TPACK-framework and history didactic theory, the aim is to provide a comprehensive view of contemporary Swedish history teaching.

This presentation will present results from an ongoing PhD project, focusing on completed empirical studies. Preliminary results indicate that digital technology has a minor impact on how and what history is taught, pointing towards a solid canonical structure and traditional teaching patterns. Findings also raise questions on how contemporary teaching with technology may affect students' historical thinking and historical consciousness.

Title: A shift in bureaucratic education? A possible piece of the puzzle in explaining the transformation of the strong state in Sweden.**Abstract ID: 739**Per Lundin¹, Strandqvist Kristoffer²,¹ *Chalmers tekniska högskola, Sweden*² *Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden*

Sweden – the most neoliberal country in the world? Is this the case? And if so, how did it come to be? What is commonly referred to in this context includes, among other things, the publicly funded school system, privately organized but publicly financed childcare, a housing sector from which the state has largely retreated, state-owned real estate companies driven purely by the bottom line in their income statements, corporatized operations, and management models everywhere. New Public Management (NPM), which suggests that business models should invigorate the public sector in a Thatcherite manner, is often cited as the explanation for this development since the 1980s.

However, this view has recently been challenged by a historical research perspective known as "grey reforms." The idea is that it has been practical solutions to specific problems, rather than ideological or "blue" ideas, that have driven changes in the strong state, in other words, grey reforms. These have been reforms dictated by specific issues that have arisen in various areas of the mature welfare state. Yet, some of the tools used in problem-solving have undeniably had economic overtones. The study of these grey reforms has also aimed to investigate the individual actors—bureaucrats, or rather *reform technocrats*—who initiated, prepared, and later implemented the changes. Who were they? What was their background in terms of education and experience? One might imagine that this has evolved over time. It would not be far-fetched to think that both business administration and economics backgrounds have increased over time, especially since business administration and economics education has grown to become *the* dominant field of study at Swedish universities and colleges for several decades.

This paper explores the development of educational backgrounds over time in the Swedish public sector, specifically within central government, focusing on the government offices. This is done through examinations at regular ten-year intervals from 1921 to 2011. The examination focuses on four selected ministries within the government offices: the Ministry of Agriculture (jordbruksdepartementet), the Ministry of Commerce (handelsdepartementet), the Ministry of Communications (kommunikationsdepartementet), and the Ministry of Social Affairs (socialdepartementet). After law-trained government officials had dominated the ministries throughout the first half of the 20th century, a shift can be detected in 1961. A number of other higher education backgrounds were emerging among senior civil servants at that time: political science graduates, economists, philosophy graduates, and civil engineers, though in limited numbers and with a continued dominance of lawyers. Ten years later, lawyers were no longer the majority. The paper discusses this development and other emerging findings in light of societal developments, previous literature, and international studies.

Session: S-01-04 - Social Movements in the second half of the 20th century**Date: 13-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Frihet åt Grekland: Scandinavia, the Greek Junta and the Interplay between Transnational Activism and Scandinavian Foreign Policy, 1967-1974**Abstract ID: 298**Matthaios Amanatiadis¹,¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

Existing research on the Scandinavian responses to the Greek dictatorship of 1967 has focused almost exclusively on the level of official foreign policy - most notably on the joint Swedish, Danish and Norwegian initiative in the European Commission on Human Rights that led to the expulsion of Greece from the Council of Europe in 1969. Far less attention has been paid, however, to the wide network of Scandinavian non-state actors that campaigned alongside politicians, diplomats and government officials over the issue of democracy in Greece. This paper uses previously unexplored archival sources to illustrate how the Scandinavian anti-Junta camp developed into an extensive transnational network, composed of highly influential state and non-state actors. It accounts for some of the network's most ambitious multilevel initiatives to oppose the Greek dictatorship and how these initiatives allowed the Scandinavian countries to conduct unofficial diplomacy in the intricate political reality of the Cold War. The paper ultimately argues that Scandinavian historiography has much to gain by devoting more attention to the rise of transnational activism during the 1960s and the 1970s and how its rise influenced the turn towards a more active foreign policy that all three Scandinavian countries underwent during the same period.

Title: Unravelling Transatlanticism: US-Scandinavian Labor Networks during the 1970s**Abstract ID: 228**Byron Rom-Jensen¹, Eirik Wig Sundvall¹,¹ *University of Oslo, Norway*

In 1969, the International Longshoreman Association picketed Swedish travel liners in protest of Swedish aid to North Vietnam, provoking commentary that the union was “transferring the State Department at Foggy Bottom to the even more foggy waterfront.” The conflict occurred amidst a wider fraying in transatlantic diplomatic ties. Consequently, historians of US-Scandinavian labor relations have tended to end their analyses at this point. Yet, despite these strains, the labor network persisted. Our paper explores the development in US-Scandinavian labor relations in the decade following the symbolic confrontations of the late 1960s. We argue that systematic transformations within the transatlantic network, including new leadership and changing patterns of union membership, must be considered alongside diverging foreign policy agendas and grassroots activism in inspiring distrust and separation. Second, we argue that, rather than completely disintegrating, US-Scandinavian labor networks found productive new ways to interact on various important issues in the 1970s.

Title: Breaking boundaries in 20th century Swedish student politics

Abstract ID: 156

Elis Wibacke¹,

¹ *Linköping University, Sweden*

In Sweden, like in many other parts of the world, student life was transformed in the 1960s. The increasing number of students at higher education institutions caused the existing student organisations, such as the student unions, to go through a period of radical change. In this paper, I explore how these organisations, run by university students on the border between adolescence and adulthood, broke boundaries to develop new organisational structures and ideological positions. The 1960s ushered in a new age of student politics, through a system of parliamentary democracy and party affiliations within the student unions. However, contrasting aims of the traditionalist and transgressive flanks of the student body created new conflicts. By tracing this process over the following decades, I identify a countermovement aiming to depoliticise the student unions. Furthermore, I argue for a new understanding of how this pushed the borders anew towards the end of the century.

Session: S-01-05 - Raising issues – new boundaries between humans and environments**Date: 13-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Ecological thinking of the 1960s – a key to control human’s impact on nature**Abstract ID: 610**Anne Brædder¹,¹ *Roskilde University, Denmark*

When the environment emerged as a societal problem in the Western world in the middle of the 20th century broadly criticizing human-nature relations (e.g. population growth, resource scarcity, pollution, and poison), ecology became a knowledge that could prevent modern society’s destruction of nature and manage future (Warde et al 2018). Several actors in a 1960s’ Danish public raised their concerns about human’s impact on nature requiring action to avoid a future even more problematic than how they perceived of the present. Although different (scientists, politicians across the spectrum, anglers, activists, educational organizations, etc.), they all argued that an ecological understanding held the key to control human’s impact on nature. The actors’ levels of ecological expertise obviously differed. So did their motivations for engaging in the environment as a societal problem. This paper will discuss boundaries – between humans and nature and between problems and solutions – embedded in ecological thinking of the 1960s.

Title: Crossing metabolic boundaries between work and nature**Abstract ID: 611**Anders Englund Kamp¹,¹ *Roskilde University, Denmark*

With this paper, I will present examples of how temporal, conceptual and material boundaries between human work and our natural support system can be seen as conditioned by the history of capitalist metabolism. From a metabolic perspective, as González de Molina and Toledo claim, only the processes of appropriation and excretion are touching points between society and nature, while transformation, circulation and consumption are *within* society (2014). Capitalist metabolism was from its beginning seen as a particular mode of appropriation and excretion strongly

affecting the boundaries between society, humans, and nature, as also shown by Malm (2016). Drawing on the history of socialist utopian critique of the category of “work”, within the capitalist metabolism, from 1850 onwards, I hope to contribute to critical rethinking of the history of the future of society/work/nature boundaries to enable a more sustainable metabolic relationship with our planet.

Title: Temporal residues of scenario transformations

Abstract ID: 612

Franciszek Korbański ¹,

¹ Roskilde University, Denmark

Computer generated future scenarios are central to the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (est. 1988), and for understanding the climate challenge in general at least since Club of Rome published *Limits to Growth* in 1972 (Pryck and Hulme: 8). In my paper I propose to read the future pathways they generate as transformations of a material reality into a specific form of temporal representation. I will build on Deleuze and Guattari’s critique of the interlinked processes of transformation and representation as formulated in *A Thousand Plateaus* in order to probe into the types of temporal transformations that take place when climate scenarios are used to ‘envision’ the future (IPCC WGII 2022: 135-143). I ask what kind of temporal residues are left behind when such a process not only takes place but becomes *the* mainstream approach to articulating temporal understanding of the climate disaster.

Title: Futures of amalgamation or improvisation?

Abstract ID: 613

Jakob Egholm Feldt ¹,

¹ Roskilde University, Denmark

This paper uses Israel Zangwill’s play *The Melting Pot* (1908) and Horace M. Kallen’s essay *Democracy versus the Melting Pot* (1915) as examples of how visions of the future take in latent teleologies springing from boundary tensions between humans and nature. Zangwill believed industry to be the nature of the future, while Kallen considered Darwinian naturalism the true narrative of nature, including humans. Zangwill’s play and Kallen’s response reflect social changes at the time,

and both visions use new but competing models for predicting the world-to-come leading to very different delineations of how a natural historical course can be

predicted. Zangwill's play opened in Washington at the height of immigration, urbanisation and social change, and it swiftly exemplified a vision of the future world in the making. Kallen's response in 1915 rejected the metal melting metaphors because they were destructive to nature, replacing them with a Darwin-inspired spontaneous 'symphony'.

Session: S-01-06 - The performative power of intellectual border-crossing processes**Date: 13-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Paper 1 Border crossing as media performance: The Dreyfus Affair as a transnational media event in the Nordic public sphere**Abstract ID: 536**Johannes Heuman¹,¹ *Södertörn University, Sweden*

This paper examines representations of the Dreyfus Affair in the Swedish, Danish, and Finland-Swedish press 1898–1899. The purpose is to illuminate how the Dreyfus Affair took shape within the Nordic media landscape and, conversely, to demonstrate the influence of this transnational media event on the Nordic press. Special attention is given to the performative role of the press in creating and shaping various forms of public engagement with issues related to the Dreyfus Affair.

Title: Paper 2 Border crossing as an intellectual endeavor: Baltic intimate connections and their role for intellectual exchange**Abstract ID: 537**Yuliya Yurchuk¹,¹ *Södertörn University, Sweden*

This paper approaches transnational intellectual networks between Sweden and Russia at the beginning of the 20th century. The study is based on the case of Sonya Kovalevsky, a daughter of the famous mathematician who spent her childhood in Sweden in the circle of well-known intellectual women of that time (most prominently Ellen Key) and after the death of her mother returned to St. Petersburg. In her numerous letters to Sweden, she reflects on the shift of intellectual traditions and political experiences. She became a part of the intellectual network that brought works of many scholarly works from Sweden.

Title: Paper 3 Border crossing as biographical narrative: Post-memories of Nazi refugees in Sweden today**Abstract ID: 538**Ann-Judith Rabenschlag¹,¹ *Dalarna University , Sweden*

This paper reflects on post-memories of the children to political refugees escaping the Nazi-terror and coming to Sweden in the 1930s. While the parent generation was fleeing continental Europe and crossing the border to Sweden as grown-ups, the children generation has no conscious memories of the border crossing. Nevertheless, both the parental decision to flee and the parental narratives of the event have had a decisive influence on the children generation who today is confronted with the boarder crossing event as decisive turning point in their family history.

Session: S-01-07 - Irish hagiography and secular politics**Date: 13-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: The Problem with Patrick**Abstract ID: 691**Ciaran McDonough¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

This paper explores the political and sectarian uses of St Patrick and his hagiographies in early modern and nineteenth-century antiquarian writings. In the early modern period, as Irish scholars of English descent sought to create a history for themselves, St Patrick was used to argue for the Anglican origins of the early Irish Church. Even after the Penal Laws of the seventeenth century had firmly established the Anglican Church as the only accepted church, Patrick was still used to argue for continuation with the past, and this idea extended past the repeal of the final Penal Laws in the 1830s. This paper will also explore how Patrick was reclaimed by Catholics and how he contributed to the national idea.

Title: St Brigit of Kildare's 1500th anniversary and the construction of a medieval female national saint in the 21st century.**Abstract ID: 692**Niamh Wycherley¹,¹ *Maynooth University, Ireland*

The current commemorations of the 1500th anniversary of the death of St Brigit are revealing a wide variety of complex responses to what this early medieval saint means in modern Ireland. With the new Irish public holiday at the start of February in her honour, she has found a firm foothold as an Irish feminist icon. People have been reinventing Brigit for at least 1400 years. This paper explores how, while this rebranding has been overwhelmingly positive, there is a worrying edge to some narratives which reveal deeper problems with our identity based on a misunderstanding of our medieval past.

Title: Armagh, Tara and the City of God; Church/State relations in early Ireland

Abstract ID: 693

Cathy Swift^{1,2},

¹ *University of Limerick, Ireland*

² *Mary Immaculate College, Ireland*

In the mid twentieth century, at a time when Ireland, as a newly independent state, had a particularly strong relationship with the Catholic Church, it was argued that the growth of Armagh as the leading church in Ireland was due, in part, to their alliance with the Uí Néill kings of Tara. In this paper, a brief overview of the historiography of this relationship is offered followed by the novel perspective offered by the new field of political theology. Using this lens, the first depiction of the Armagh/Tara relationship is examined in conjunction with Augustine's *City of God* and Gelasius' 'Doctrine of the Two'.

Title: The purpose of saints in the Book of Leinster's Bórama

Abstract ID: 694

Elín Ingibjörg Eyjólfsdóttir¹,

¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

The Bórama is a lengthy text contained in the twelfth century Book of Leinster, with seventy saints mentioned, mainly in the poetry. Contributing to the length of the text, there are thirty-three poems included and most of them containing mentions of various saints. In this paper I will contemplate the question of what the purpose is behind the numerous saints that are mentioned in the Bórama. Why were so many saints included? Who were they and what was their provenance and how did that relate to their role in the tale? It will also be interesting to consider their role in the wider context of the Book of Leinster.

Session: S-01-08 - Methods and concepts in Historical Research**Date: 13-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Spatializing the dimensions of Nordic politics: A cognitive history from Hoyre 1848 to the GAL-TAN scale**Abstract ID: 33**Janne Holmén¹,¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

Human thinking about abstract domains, such as politics, is done with the help of analogies from other more tangible domains, particularly the domain of space. For example, election results can be explained in terms of support for the "left" having gone "down". This paper analyzes how space has been used as a source domain for analogies to politics in the Nordic countries. It spans the period from the inception of the world's first "right" party, the Danish Hoyre in 1848, until present attempts to spatialize the multidimensionality of politics, such as the GAL-TAN scale. Both spatial metaphors in language and the spatial layout of images and diagrams are analyzed. The study utilizes a cognitive history approach, where Nordic politics is analyzed with the help of theories on spatial cognition, such as primary metaphors and spatial agency bias. The main sources are textbooks in civic education and political science.

Title: One history, two narratives – methodological reflections on writing the history of unintended outcomes**Abstract ID: 263**Louise Karlskov Skyggebjerg¹,¹ *Copenhagen Business School, Denmark*

This paper suggests that historians must consider whether it can be necessary to construct more than one narrative of the past to understand what happened. The case considered is one of a local bank and foundation that crashed in the financial crisis leaving huge creditor losses, penniless shareholders, and decades-long court cases behind. The verdict in the press was harsh, and thus the narrative became one of irresponsible risk-taking and loss. However, if we imagine the story written before the crash, another narrative takes form. It is one of a local benefactor

envisioning a revitalization of an area struggling with demographic issues and economic decline. The paper discusses whether a historian should mix the two

narratives in one chronological story, or whether it is fruitful to keep them apart, if we want to understand how visions of social outcomes unintentionally could hide risks behind a veil of good intentions.

Title: Nobility, profession and change in Finland, 1718–1918: New methodological approaches

Abstract ID: 86

Johanna Ilmakunnas¹, Petri Karonen²

¹ Åbo Akademi University, Finland

² University of Jyväskylä, Finland

How the nobility changed as a social group from the early modern to the modern? Why were its societal, political and economical positions transformed crucially? How did the changing society and new occupations and professionalisation affected the noble families? In this paper, we argue that to better understand strategies and agency of the nobility, it is crucial to combine quantitative data sets with qualitative microhistorical analysis of families and individuals. Our study is based on a comprehensive data set of recently published genealogical sources (*Ättartavlor för de på Finlands Riddarhus inskrivna ätterna I–V*, 2017–2022, ed. Johanna Aminoff-Winberg) on the nobility living in Finland 1718–1918, from the Swedish realm to the Russian rule. Exploring families systematically over time allows us to analyse professions and careers on the societal level. In previous scholarship, the macro and micro perspectives have rarely been combined methodically in one study.

Session: S-01-09 - Portraying Genocide: artistic representations of the Holocaust in the Nordic countries**Date: 13-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Holocaust Memory in the Nordic Countries in the 1950s: Challenging the "myth of silence"?**Abstract ID: 484**Jon Reitan¹,¹ *Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway*

This paper will address how, and the extent to which consciousness of the Holocaust filtered into popular culture in the Nordic countries after 1945, with particular emphasis on the 1950s. The main empirical foci of the presentation are Nordic theatre productions of Anne Frank's Diary in 1956–1957, and Nordic screenings of Alain Resnais' documentary film *Night and Fog* (*Nuit et brouillard*) from 1956, one of the first cinematic representations of Auschwitz and the Holocaust. This paper will discuss Nordic receptions, uses and interpretations of these cultural products, and address their positions and functions within a broader context of Holocaust memory cultures.

Title: Music, Holocaust memory and the Nordic Countries**Abstract ID: 485**Henrik Rosengren¹,¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

In my paper I will discuss how the performances and reception of musical art works connected to the Holocaust in the Nordic countries Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland, can be understood and related to the Holocaust memorial cultures in the four countries. The starting point is a couple of empirical examples of publicly performed musical works in which the composer or other interpreters explicitly have related them to the Holocaust, 1945 to circa 2020. I will also touch upon some of the works' characteristics.

Title: Memorials and Holocaust memory in the Nordic Countries**Abstract ID: 486**Ludwig Qvarnström¹,¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

In my paper I will address how the Holocaust has been represented in the form of memorials in the public space in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland after 1945. What can be defined as Holocaust memorials, very much depend on the different national memorial cultures, making the interpretation of the memorials dependent on nationally coded narratives. The empirical point of departure will be a selection of a few memorials to demonstrate both similarities and differences in how these nationally coded narratives are reflected in the memorials in a comparison between the Nordic countries and over time.

Title: Artistic Expressions in Yiddish and early Holocaust memory**Abstract ID: 487**Simo Muir¹,¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

In my paper I will discuss the creation of early Yiddish song repertoire related to the Holocaust in concerts, theatre performances and commemorative events in Sweden. Many notable Yiddish actors and singers performed to Holocaust survivors and non-survivors alike on their tours of the Nordic countries after the Second World War. At the core of the presentation will be analysis of cantor Leo Rosenblüth's 1946 Stockholm publication of Yiddish ghetto and camps songs and his compositions of Rokhl Korn's and Itzik Manger's poetry.

Session: S-01-10 - Transimperial mobility in the late nineteenth-century Grand Duchy of Finland**Date: 13-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Adopting popular knowledge from across imperial borders**Abstract ID: 450**Mikko Myllyntausta¹,¹ *University of Turku, Finland*

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, various movements of popular education were taking root in the Grand Duchy of Finland. These movements drew heavily from their connections to Western Europe and America. Much of the material and methods used in popular education travelled to the Grand Duchy across imperial borders. The publication of cheap readings and the use of magic lantern shows had their models in the West and were adopted to fit Finnish traditions. Some popularised texts were even directly imported and translated for Finnish use. In this presentation, I discuss how and why this focus in Finnish popular education was influenced, for example, by Finnish migration to America and the availability of Western methods of popular education. This gave Finnish popular education a distinct focus in contrast to Russian imperial ideals of the utility of people's education for the benefit of the Russian Empire.

Title: Transimperial connections without boundaries in visual materials**Abstract ID: 451**Sari Bajari-Ahola¹,¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

In this paper I will discuss transimperial mobility from the perspective of photographic culture and visual material in cross-border diaspora communities. I focus on the transimperial identities and belonging of the Jews in the Grand Duchy of Finland through visual materials, and I approach my subject focusing especially on the culture of Jewish photography. The sources of my visual research are the photographs of the Finnish Jewish Archives from the National Archives. Using photographic examples, I explore how Jews constructed their cultural identity and

social networks; kept in touch with Jews living elsewhere, but also showed efforts to belong to the diaspora community in Finland. The extensive photo collection of

Finnish Jews includes numerous photos taken abroad. In my interpretation, photographs as transitive material objects are cross-border practices of transimperial belongings.

Title: At Empire's Edge: National and Imperial Borders in a Finnish Port City, 1875–1917

Abstract ID: 452

Aleksi Huhta ¹,

¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

This paper examines the multilayered border regime in the Finnish port city of Hanko between c. 1875 and 1917. During these years, Hanko emerged as one of the busiest passenger and trading ports in Finland. A key node in Finnish and Russian Jewish transatlantic emigration, Hanko marked the border not only of Finland but also of the broader Russian Empire. In my paper, I will explore how diverse actors—national and imperial, private and public—sought control over the border regime and how the contestation over border control reflected broader tensions between nation and empire in late imperial Russia and Finland. The paper draws on Finnish and Russian administrative documents and shipping company records.

Session: S-01-12 - Everyday life and social discipline in early modern Sweden. (Controlling Drinking in Early Modern Sweden & Material and immaterial borders in the Minute Books from Jönköping 1570-1619)

Date: 13-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Drunkenness, Community and Social Responsibility in Early Modern Rural Sweden.

Abstract ID: 366

Terese Zachrisson ¹,

¹ University of Gothenburg, Sweden

In early modern villages, where individuals relied heavily on each other for their livelihood and social security, everyone's work effort, behaviour, and adherence to social norms were crucial. While drinking often reinforced social bonds and a sense of community, excessive drinking could destabilise communities. This presentation explores how 'drunkards' were perceived and treated by their fellow parishioners, and what constituted acceptable drinking behaviour. It examines how factors such as gender, age, and household position influenced these boundaries. Additionally, it investigates the extent to which individuals with problematic drinking patterns were included or excluded within their local communities. This contribution focuses on handling drunkenness issues in rural communities and presents findings from a case study of seventeenth- and eighteenth century parish assembly records from the dioceses of Skara and Härnösand.

Title: Miners in Possession: Changing Views of Drinking and Drinkers in a Swedish Eighteenth-century Mining Community

Abstract ID: 368

Hedvig Widmalm ¹,

¹ Umeå university, Sweden

The early eighteenth century was a politically and economically volatile period in the Swedish Realm. This was apparent in the copper mining town Falun, where miners staged four large protests between the years 1696 and 1743. In the timespan when

these protests occurred, mining authorities made several attempts to regulate and sometimes prohibit drinking near the mine. They levied new taxes and punished alehouse keepers who disobeyed the rules. This paper draws a connection between changing regulations on drinking and the miners' protests. Among other things, it discusses the shifting status of the miners. They were legally defined as life-cycle servants, working for those who owned shares in the mine until they could become shareholders themselves. At the same time, many miners remained miners their whole lives. The paper argues that the miners' ambiguous status in society affected their ability to meet, drink and plan political actions.

Title: Drinking and Flirting in Household Settings in Seventeenth-Century Sweden

Abstract ID: 367

Paul Borenberg ¹,

¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

Alcoholic beverages lower social barriers. It makes us talkative, less afraid. It is one of the classical, if not always too helpful, crutches in courtship. In seventeenth-century Nordic society, the tavern was largely reserved for men; therefore, it was not a suitable space for men and women to meet and flirt. At least if the woman cared for her honourable reputation. But that does not mean that alcohol had no role in creating opportunity for courtship and sex in seventeenth-century society. This paper will present how drinking parties (*dryckesgillen*) and other festive occasions within the household were used by young people in seventeenth-century Sweden to create opportunities for courtship and sexual intercourse. Drawing on court records, I will show how feasts within a household setting, and the co-sleeping arrangements among the guests, functioned as a sometimes more, sometimes less, accepted institution for young people to meet, flirt, court and have sex.

Session: S-01-13 - Education: Ideology, Culture and Power**Date: 13-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Norwegianization, Resistance and Cultural Boundaries: An Historiographic Analysis of South Saami School History**Abstract ID: 242**Trond Risto¹,¹ *Norwegian University of Science and Technology NTNU, Norway*

Former South Saami pupils bravely shared their experiences in newspapers in the 2000s. Some vividly described the oppression and punishment for speaking Saami in schools. Over approximately 300 years, these schools evolved, adapting to changing circumstances. They played a pivotal role in the development of Saami societies across generations. While there has been growing interest in the role of schools in Norwegianizing the Saami, little attention has been paid to South Saami conditions. This presentation shows that the study of South Saami school history is a blind spot in Norwegian education research, even though the school's importance to South Saami society is highlighted as an important and explicit reason for the loss of language, culture, and identity in the Indigenous society. What characterizes this field and the studies that have been carried out, and why is this an under-explored area?

Title: The spatial politics of safety - the NS-led German schools in Helsinki and Stockholm 1933-1945**Abstract ID: 130**Susan Lindholm¹,¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

This paper discusses the NS-led schools in Helsinki and Stockholm between 1933-1945 in terms of a spatial politics of safety. While the opening of a new German school in Helsinki in 1933 represented the expansion of an already existing school, the school at Karlavägen 25 in Stockholm was founded by the NS regime in 1941. The schools also operated in different historical and political contexts, among others as Finland entered the Second World War in 1941, whereas the Swedish government had declared itself neutral. Based on the notion that NS ideology set out

to provide a solution to the insecurity and chaos that ensued in the aftermath of WWI, this paper sets out to understand the way in which the NS-led German schools in Helsinki and Stockholm were imagined and operated as “safe spaces” that is, as part of projecting a safe German *Lebensraum* into the future, both within and outside German borders. It argues that these safe spaces worked as part of an effort to project an NS definition of Germanness in Sweden and Finland, as well as in terms of education by providing a safe educational space for German children in both countries.

Title: ” To lessen their tough fates” – The literacy of East Karelian refugee pupils in 20th century Finland

Abstract ID: 41

Nita Mäenpää¹,

¹ *University of Oulu, Finland*

In the aftermath of the Russian revolution in 1918–1922, refugees from Eastern Karelia fled to Finland. This paper focuses on the literacy of refugee children and how their skills developed in refugee schooling. Different boundaries affected the children’s ability to learn to read and write. These boundaries emerged from different national educational systems and attributes like gender, native language, class, and religion.

The material for this paper comes from one refugee school in the municipality of Oulujoki from 1922 to 1937. The primary sources are grade books, curricula, and annual reports that enable the quantitative analysis of grades and contextualization of refugee children’s school performance.

This study participates into Nordic and European discussion about the spread of national education and how education was used in producing national subjects in the interwar period when new states emerged after the collapse of the Russian empire.

Title: ”Scandinavia” in the Scandinavian Schools (1805–1905): A study on Nation-Building in the Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish School Systems

Abstract ID: 22

Daniel Jakobsson¹,

¹ *Umeå university, Sweden*

Initially serving as platforms for disseminating religious and moral values espoused by the churches, schools gradually assumed a dualistic role during the 19th century

in the Nordic countries. This evolution entailed a shifting emphasis from the dissemination of religious doctrine towards fostering national identity. Consequently, schools sought to instill both religious and moral values while simultaneously molding students into citizens of nation-states. Within this framework, affiliation with the state and identification with the nation emerged as paramount objectives of educational systems. In Scandinavia, a parallel current of nationalism emerged during the middle of the 19th century in the form of Scandinavism, advocating for a united Scandinavian entity. My study revolves around the notion of Scandinavism within the educational landscapes of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden as either a competing pan-national idea or as a consolidator of the intranational idea during the period spanning 1805 to 1905.

Session: S-01-14 - Devotion Across Borders 1: Texts, Practices, and Communities in Iceland (1100-1600)

Date: 13-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Local churches full of liturgical books? The máldagar as a record of devotional practices in medieval Iceland

Abstract ID: 390

Rhiannon Warren¹,

¹ *University of Cambridge , United Kingdom*

Those familiar with the Arnamagnæan collection would be forgiven for concluding that the liturgical book was a rare technology in Medieval Iceland. However, analysis of the *máldagar*, (church inventories mandatory under Grágás) illuminates that a diverse range of liturgical books were widely used for public church services. This is even more apparent when considering the wealth of fragments in the Accessoria 7 collection.

This paper examines the liturgical books available in local churches in medieval Iceland as preserved in the *máldagar* to glean a picture of what public devotional practices looked like for the average person. I will examine the terminology these diplomas used for liturgical books and comment on their use in services. I will combine this with an examination of the extant manuscripts through the theoretical frameworks of Materiality and Fragmentology, concluding that while practices were diverse before print, public devotional practices for the laity were fundamentally book-led.

Title: Monsters on the Margins: Images and Devotion in AM 431 12mo

Abstract ID: 391

Brooklyn Arnot¹,

¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

This paper explores how the interrelationship between *Margrétar saga* in the Icelandic manuscript AM 431 12mo and its marginal images is able to generate deep spiritual meaning for sixteenth-century women. AM 431 12mo was created as a devotional aid for childbirth, evidenced through the obstetrical prayers at the end of the manuscript. While most Icelandic saga manuscripts are sparse in decoration, AM

431 12mo is unique in that it contains many marginal images of monsters and mythical creatures. Despite the fact that scholars in the past hundred years have rarely ascribed any symbolic meaning monstrous marginalia, this paper argues that the monsters which crawl around the margins of the manuscript are able to act as a devotional aid within the feminine spheres of sexuality and childbirth.

Session: S-02-01 - Cold War Political History**Date: 13-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: British Intelligence Assessments of Finland during the Early Cold War**Abstract ID: 310**Tommi Hämäläinen¹,¹ *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

The Cold War was an era when intelligence played an important part in international relations. Located between the blocs, Finland was one of the focal points for Cold War intelligence, yet little is known about secret intelligence and Finland. The present study addresses this topic by analysing how the highest intelligence authority of Britain, the Joint Intelligence Committee, estimated the security political status of Finland, and how Finland was seen in the British Cold War strategy. Traditionally history of intelligence has focused on espionage and covert operations. By examining the Joint Intelligence Committee files my research raises the attention to the highest level of intelligence, whereby, it creates a link between intelligence and policymaking. In my work in progress paper, based on my dissertation, I present how the status of Finland was evaluated in the British intelligence assessments, and how these assessments transformed between the years 1948 and 1956.

Title: The border issue and the ‘Gomulka doctrine’ and military cooperation within the Warsaw Pact - A strategy for national survival**Abstract ID: 165**Steen Andersen¹,¹ *Rigsarkivet, Denmark**Steen Andersen, senior researcher, National Archives of Denmark*

How can a country deal with the fact that it has lost its political and economic freedom? How does a country navigate this difficult and almost impossible process? Is it even possible to maintain a sovereign state under these conditions? After the Potsdam Conference in August 1945, Poland was given new borders. The eastern border of the new Poland was moved to the west and the western border was drawn on the Oder-Neisse River. For Poland, it became crucial to gain formal legitimacy and security guarantees in the Europe that was created after 1945. Poland's search

for freedom of action and security found its final form after October 1956 after Gomulka came to power. This doctrine persisted until 1990.

Title: Crossing Cold War Boundaries: Polish-Swedish Connections, Human Rights, and Humanitarianism in the late Cold War

Abstract ID: 275

Annika Frieberg¹,

¹ *San Diego State University, United States*

In 1980, Polish Solidarity caught Europe's and the world's attention as the first free and independent union in the Soviet bloc. Remembered as a herald to the fall of communism, the union quickly grew to 9-10 million members but then became illegal as the Polish communist authorities introduced martial law in December 1981, arresting thousands. Drawing on oral interviews, audiovisual media, and archival sources, my presentation discusses Swedish union-driven, and popular support for Solidarity contextualized by new Cold War history and debates about the transnational emergence of human rights. Swedish unions, civil society, and individuals supported families of Solidarity-activists through packages and private correspondences throughout the 1980s. These contacts, sometimes continuing into the 1990s and 2000s, transcended multiple boundaries, including ones between the private and public spheres, nations, and the east-west divide of Europe. They show the transnational nature of Solidarity's role in Europe as a catalyst of political change.

Title: Generational Boundaries? Turn-of-the-Century Foreign Policy in Early Cold War Finland

Abstract ID: 114

Sebastian Lindberg¹,

¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

In the late 1940s, Finland was governed by an ageing political generation, born during the last decades of the nineteenth century. Thus, key experiences from the turn of the century informed the policies employed. The proposed paper will explore how these generational contexts influenced Finnish foreign policy in the late 1940s and in particular the relations to the other Nordic countries. The paper argues that Norden was utilized by the political leadership as a bridge toward deeper cooperation with the West, much like at the end of the nineteenth century. This notion was, however, challenged by a younger political generation.

From a perspective of New Diplomatic History, the paper, furthermore, showcases how generations, understood as shifting socio-cultural entities (Mannheim), can be utilized in the study of foreign policy and political history to better understand the borders and conventions of political culture and challenges to prevailing paradigms.

Session: S-02-02 - Rethinking Scandinavia on the World Stage**Date: 13-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Custodians of Imperial Worldmaking? Scandinavian Officials & the League of Nations' Global Ordering**Abstract ID: 634**Haakon Ikonomou¹,¹ *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

This paper explores the role Sweden, Denmark and Norway in the League of Nations', and its chief imperial member states', efforts at worldmaking after the First World War. It does so by following some of the most influential Scandinavian officials in the League Secretariat. Combining institutional, prosopographical and biographical approaches, the paper argues that Scandinavian officials served very specific roles in internationalized imperial governance. As such, the paper holds that we need to expand our understanding of the 'sources' of Scandinavian – Swedish, Danish and Norwegian – internationalism in the 20th century.

Title: Political Advantage, Political Risk: The Nascent Stage of Statoil's International Expansion, 1978-1999**Abstract ID: 635**Ada Nissen¹, **Jonas Fossli Gjersø**,²¹ *University of Oslo, Norway*² *University of Stavanger, Norway*

This article examines the evolving dynamics between Norway's national oil company, Statoil, and its government owner during the 1980s and 1990s. It highlights Statoil's investments in politically risky regions, such as China, Nigeria, and the Caucasus, and its close ties with the Norwegian state's value-based foreign policy. The article explores how Statoil transitioned from an instructed agent to an independent actor, influencing its government's actions. This study challenges the narrative of Scandinavian smallness, offering insights into the international expansion of national oil companies and the interplay between corporate ambitions and state policies.

Title: Postwar Journalists according to Postwar Journalists: The case of Scandinavia 1945-1946**Abstract ID: 636**Emil Seidenfaden¹,¹ *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

This paper investigates how the Second World War impacted the perception among Scandinavian journalists of the purpose of their profession and how it contributed to an internationalization of the trade due to many prominent journalists and editors having spent war in exile (doing semi-diplomatic work) or in resistance networks dependent on foreign support. Drawing on the wartime activities and immediate postwar career trajectories of journalists in Denmark and Norway, as well as trade union papers of all three Scandinavian countries, the paper takes inspiration from calls to consider transnational entanglements and constructions of professional self-images in the history of journalism.

Title: Negotiating Sustainable Development: Nordic Visions for Common Futures before the Brundtland Report**Abstract ID: 638**Sunniva Engh¹, **Melina Antonia Buns**,²¹ *University of Oslo, Norway*² *Stavanger University, Norway*

'Our Common Future' published by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in April 1987, presents a caesura in development discourse and practice, as well as in aid and environmental policies. Promoting the concept of sustainable development, the report influenced government programmes and public debates, and promised to resolve the tensions between economic development and environmental protection at global scale, without needing to abstain from continued economic growth. Prior to the Brundtland report, however, Nordic politicians had already discussed some concepts and ideas on sustainable development for the Global South. Investigating this history, this paper argues that the turn of the 1980s ought to be considered as a transition period within Nordic development aid which while foreboded ideas of sustainable development as promoted after 1987 was thought of as a renewal of development aid - not as a policy to be applied by the Global North as well.

Session: S-02-04 - Constructing Gender and Identity**Date: 13-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: "Healthy and willing – not a weak lily" - Female gymnastics directors femininity, collectivity and emancipation ca 1820-1940**Abstract ID: 194**Michaela Malmberg¹,¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

This research focuses on processes of changing concepts of femininity and identity in relation to work, by studying female gymnastics directors (gymnastikdirektör) in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The profession included being a physiotherapist and a gymnastics teacher, as well as the right to establish and run their own gymnastics institute. Women also travelled to Sweden to take advantage of this early opportunity for higher education (women were admitted from 1864). Many women found work or opened institutes abroad, gaining a relatively unique degree of autonomy and independence, but also facing challenges and prejudice. This profession affected their whole life situation, identity and private relationships. They challenged many gender norms, but also participated in the creation of others. Networking and camaraderie became important, and several of them wrote collective diaries over many decades in which they addressed these issues. These are an important source material for this study, which is conducted with an intersectional approach, inspired by the field of new biography.

Title: Media portrayals of male servants and farm hands between 1880-1930**Abstract ID: 309**Fanny-Johanna Reinikka¹,¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

This presentation focuses on how men in different service professions were portrayed in Finnish contemporary media sources between 1880-1930. Vast amount of academic research has focused previously on the role of women in service professions but the role of men has been studied less. Previous research has shown that gender had a lot of impact regarding different professions, working life and what was seen as proper. In this presentation I focus on how male servants and farm hands were described in humour magazines and other medias of their time. What

kind of professional stereotypes existed of these professions and what did they reveal about the views of their contemporaries? This paper suggests that the boundaries of gender and working life were pushed in some regards and agreed upon in other.

Title: Masculinity within the boundaries of marriage: Men, family and intimacy in Swedish popular culture circa 1930–1960

Abstract ID: 319

Emma Flärd¹,

¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

This paper suggests that during the decades around the mid-20th century, popular culture offered spaces to explore the boundaries of men's roles within romantic relationships and family life. While this era has often been characterised by the ideal of the nuclear family, traditional views on marriage were increasingly clashing with new expectations of intimacy and mutual affection. These themes were at the centre of a genre of popular fiction called 'marriage novels'. This paper focuses on the representations of men as husbands, companions and lovers in the imagination of readers and critics. Through reviews, publisher's marketing and references to other works, the novels were explicitly and implicitly linked to contemporaneous discourses on intimacy, gender and 'the family' man as a masculine ideal. This raises methodological questions on the use of popular fiction and reception studies as a historical source on gender, intimacy and everyday life.

Title: Breaking the gender boundaries of the Victorian Arctic

Abstract ID: 67

Julia Salminen¹,

¹ *University of Eastern Finland, Finland*

Julia Salminen, doctoral researcher, UEF.

In this paper I intend to show how Victorian women broke gender boundaries in British Arctic history. The Arctic was seen as a place for heroic men, but even if women were rarely physically part of Arctic explorations, they were part of Arctic history in multiple ways.

Women funded explorations, wrote about them and gathered support for new voyages by writing to queens and presidents. If an expedition was lost, women ensured it was not forgotten. If there were no news, women held seances to invent some to figure out what happened to lost explorers. With money, time and letters women partook in transforming the Arctic “story” towards their liking and ensured it was kept alive.

Even if Arctic exploration during the Victorian period was a major influence in British culture, the impact of women has been overlooked in most historical research.

Session: S-02-05 - Beyond Disjointed Pasts – Pathways to the History of Science**Date: 13-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: In Search of a Deeper Understanding – A Holistic Approach to the History of Science**Abstract ID: 546**Marie Vatjus¹,¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

This presentation approaches science as an essentially communal and discursive phenomenon, arguing that it yields itself to a proper understanding only through a holistic approach of its history. Holism in this context signifies the joined development of science, from which a single discipline cannot be satisfactorily viewed without some understanding of the whole.

Though separated by their different viewpoints and purposes, all scientific disciplines tackle concurrently the pressures put upon them by factors such as communality, politics, and societal strife. Though not experts in each other's fields, the actors are both limited and spurred on by their shared experiences.

At no time in the past did scientific discourse limit itself to one discipline alone. Thus, in narrowing our thoughts to single disciplines, we forfeit a deeper understanding of the diverse factors at play in formulating scientific ideas. Professionalisation notwithstanding, this essential element of scientific thought carries on until our times.

Title: "Scientific Knowledge and "Scientia" – The Realm of Science Evolving in Time"**Abstract ID: 547**Katariina Lehto¹,¹ *Tampere University, Finland*

During the recent decades, the scope of the history of science has broadened to its former margins, involving varying agents, actions, and geographical and thematical contexts. In search for more flexibility and adaptability to the historical context, the history of knowledge has attracted attention as an alternative or complementary

approach to engage in the ways of making science in the past. In my paper, I focus on the history of early modern science that can cause discrepancies when compared to the modern understanding of science. My aim is to approach this issue by examining, what is meant by the concept of “scientia” and how it relates to the different understandings of scientific knowledge. For example, scientific knowledge can carry meanings that exist and evolve in time, such as the ideas of certainty, demonstration, or human rationality.

Title: Sciences in Divergence – The Challenges of Tracing a Shared Past

Abstract ID: 548

Elina Maaniitty¹,

¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

History of science is studied by scholars of various backgrounds, which is both enriching and necessary. This has, however, also lead to discrepancies and miscommunications due to the varying contemporary ideas of what “science” means. As disciplines have specialised to the point of fragmentation, they have also diverged to view the world in fundamentally different ways. This is clearly mirrored in their perceptions of the past, and the views of natural scientists, for example, often clash with those of historians. Drawing examples from my own experiences of working with the history of medicine, I aspire to illustrate some of the more subtle variations in how different fields see the history of science and what this means to our collective understanding. I examine how we can increase interdisciplinary understanding and form more coherent, integrated views of our shared past, even if we don’t seem to speak the same language.

Session: S-02-06 - Everyday welfare state materialities**Date: 13-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Transparency and welfare life politics: glass, water and meat**Abstract ID: 521**Mikkel Thelle¹,¹ *National Museum of Denmark, Denmark*

In the “house of the future”, Danish architect Arne Jacobsen and Flemming Lassen imagined a citizen for whom transparency was a central feature of their exhibit of 1929. In the “Stockholm-exhibition” of 1930, the visitor is imagined as a flaneur, watching the exciting future of the modernist society, which to a high degree also is a transparent one.

While this was an arrangement for the everyday life, also biological life was a concern of the Danish interwar welfare society. Clear water and clean bodies became center of attention to the growing city councils and hygiene committees, and in saturating the populations novel desire for fresh meat, slaughterhouses and animal husbandry became regulated to standards of visibility.

The paper argues that while development of transparency spatially promoted welfare values like equality, health and cleanliness, certain features also made them afford other experiences like exclusion and surveillance, and further asking the question if these latter affordances were separated from the former by time or social class. Thus, the paper will propose a debate on the role of material-spatial transparency in welfare spaces, and the aspects of citizenship associated with it.

Title: The Caring Baby Box: Socio-material encounters with the Finnish welfare state**Abstract ID: 522**Tanja Vahtikari¹, Jenni Räikkönen²,¹ *Tampere University, Finland*² *Tampereen Yliopisto, Finland*

Our presentation focuses on the “baby box” (or the “maternity package”), as an object of the welfare state. The boxes, which contain various baby-care items, have been provided to Finnish families by the state since the adoption of the Maternity

Grants Act in 1937. Still today, 95 percent of first-time parents choose the package. Throughout its history, the baby box, as a concept and a material object, has involved a range of institutional presumptions concerning parenthood and welfare-state citizenship. At the same time, it has been encountered at the most intimate level of everyday life within families. In our presentation, we will discuss how welfare has been co-produced between these different scales in socio-material encounters, and how the maternity package has shaped welfare practices related to childcare since its adoption in the late-1930s until today. We draw examples from Southern and Northern Finland.

Title: The material politics of rat control in mid-twentieth century Copenhagen

Abstract ID: 523

Mikkel Høghøj¹,

¹ *National Museum of Denmark, Denmark*

From the 1930s onwards, Copenhagen underwent significant material changes as new urban legislation for planning, housing, slum clearance and pest control were implemented in context of the emerging welfare society. In this context, rats became a particularly contentious issue, leading to the centralization of urban pest control and in several urban rat extermination campaigns. Based upon inspection reports of condemned housing from Copenhagen Health Police and Municipal Housing Commission, this paper examines the material politics of rat control in mid-twentieth century Copenhagen, focusing on the everyday technologies and materialities through which rats were exterminated and experienced in urban and domestic space. The paper argues that in the context of changing expectations to urban housing standards, rats helped transforming urban and domestic space into a socio-ecological arena for everyday political negotiations where questions of welfare and citizenship intertwined with social categories such as family, gender, hygiene and privacy.

Title: Pram Country: Baby carriages in the experience and circulation of Nordic welfare states

Abstract ID: 524

Byron Rom-Jensen¹,

¹ *University of Oslo, Norway*

In 1997, Annette Sørensen, a Danish citizen, was arrested for child endangerment and disorderly conduct in New York City after leaving her sleeping child in a pram on

the sidewalk, a standard practice in Denmark. The shockwaves from the incident directed international attention towards the everyday usage of prams in Denmark and the societal values such usage represented. These investigations reinforced an image of Denmark, and the Nordic region more generally, as unique “pram countries,” with progressive ideals of expansive family policy, gender equality, and widespread social trust inscribed upon these objects. This paper explores the development of prams from the late 19th century to today, focusing particularly on recent examples of prams in facilitating how individuals experience, describe, and challenge the Nordic welfare states and their underlying principles. It highlights prams’ outsized reputation for determining where, when, and amongst whom the Nordic model is seen to exist.

Session: S-02-07 - Øresundsregionen - et sydsandinavisk grænseområde**Date: 13-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Folkhögskolan Hvilan – en dansk-svensk folkehøjskole i Skåne 1868-1890**Abstract ID: 706**Hanne Sanders¹,¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

Hanne Sanders, professor i historie ved Lunds universitet, belyser under titlen *Folkhögskolan Hvilan – en dansk-svensk folkehøjskole i Skåne 1868-1890* de bevægelser af mennesker og idéer over Øresund, som førte til, at den danske folkehøjskole blev svensk - og det uden at blive stoppet af nationale modsætninger. Man bliver klogere på folkehøjskolens karakter kort efter 1864 ligesom skandinavismens betydning.

Title: Helsingør – internationalt handelsknudepunkt og grænseby**Abstract ID: 705**Jørgen Mikkelsen¹,¹ *Rigsarkivet, Denmark*

Ud fra titlen *Helsingør – internationalt handelsknudepunkt og grænseby* præsenterer seniorforsker, Ph.D., Jørgen Mikkelsen (Rigsarkivet) nogle lange linjer i byens historie fra 1500-tallet til i dag – dog med særligt fokus på kontakterne til Skåne og immigrationen fra Sverige siden 1700-tallet. Det omfatter bl.a. analyser af en protokol, som blev indrettet efter indførslen af Danmarks første fremmedlov i 1875.

Title: Sydsverige som hovedstadsmetropolens buffer**Abstract ID: 704**Henning Bro¹,¹ *Frederiksberg Stadsarkiv, Denmark*

Under titlen *Sydsverige som hovedstadsmetropolens buffer*, belyser seniorforsker, Ph.D., Henning Bro (Frederiksberg Stadsarkiv), hvorledes den danske hovedstadsmetropolis ekspansion fra starten af det 20. århundrede skabte udfordringer for så vidt elektricitets- og vandforsyning, arealer til rekreative områder og sommerhusbyggeri samt Øresunds forurening. I et sådant omfang, at håndteringen af disse udfordringer kom til at involvere det sydlige Sverige.

Session: S-02-08 - Examining the insularity of Icelandic historical narrative**Date: 13-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Is Icelandic history ready to become Nordic history? Examples on how the nationalistic discourse of the 19th and early 20th century still shape Icelandic historiography of the 17th and 18th centuries.**Abstract ID: 695**Hinriksson Gunnar Marel¹,¹ *Technical College, School of Industry, Iceland*

This talk explores concrete examples of 17th and 18th century history and how modern historical narrative is still shaped by the foundational works of Icelandic history in the 19th and early 20th century - works written with the nationalistic and political aim of finding historical arguments for Icelandic independence. By exploring the subjects of the introduction of the absolute monarchy in 1662 and the work of Árni Magnússon and Páll Víðalín in the beginning of the 18th century from the viewpoint of the administration of the Danish-Norwegian kingdom we will see how the traditional Icelandic historiography has limited our understanding of the broader context of these events.

What were the consequences of the assembly in Kópavogur in 1662, where the absolute monarchy was introduced? Did the Icelanders delay its introduction as traditional Icelandic historical narrative dictates, or did the development in Iceland follow the same pattern as other parts of the kingdom? Why did Árni Magnússon and Páll Víðalín undertake the land register in 1702-1714? What challenges had the young absolute monarchy met that led to this enterprise? By lending a wider lens to Icelandic history, this talk aims to widen the perspective traditionally given to its narrative.

Title: Myths and muddied waters of Icelandic language history**Abstract ID: 696****Heimir Freyr Viðarsson****¹ *University of Iceland of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland***

In the context of Icelandic language history, the theoretical stance of the world-renowned linguist Rasmus Christian Rask (1787-1832) was that Icelandic could be equated with the ancient common language of the Nordic countries. Despite his documented better judgment, language overviews even to this day strongly emphasize the similarities and greatly downplay the differences between Modern Icelandic and Old Norse. This paper explores the extent to which it could be argued that Rask's original "insight" continues to feed into Icelandic historiography, historical overviews, school textbooks and even linguistic analyses. Debunking myths is not only a matter of eradicating wrong beliefs and exposing blatant lies or falsehoods; nor is creating a history that is 'devoid of myths' a particularly viable goal. Still, the case will be made that notable claims of traditional Icelandic language history, while (usually) not deliberate lies, are quite simply put untenable.

Title: Political freedom and the Danish Absolute Crown. The meaning of Old Althing as a Nordic republican symbol**Abstract ID: 697****Margrét Gunnarsdóttir¹****¹ *National Archives of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland***

The paper deals with different interpretations of the historical importance of the Icelandic Commonwealth political heritage. During the second half of the 18th century the idea of Iceland with its Old Althing, being a democratic sanctuary in the North, was promoted. This heritage of the Commonwealth republican constitution of Althing was seen as an important political heritage of the Danish absolute monarchy. The Althing at Thingvellir thus held a special meaning due to its historical status and can be described as a unifying symbol. This old institution established in 930, which had changed throughout the ages and was a court at the time, was however abolished in 1799. Sources shedding light on different opinions of this act, which has been explained as a practical solution, will be presented and its political meaning explained from the viewpoint of Icelandic officials who based their ideas on unionist nationalism.

Title: A National Cultural Heritage Before Nationalism? Finnur Magnússon and Iceland**Abstract ID: 713**Anna Þorbjörg Þorgrímsdóttir^{1,2},¹ *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*² *The Reykjavik Academy, Iceland*

The Royal Commission for the Preservation of Antiquities (Oldagskommissionen) was established in Copenhagen by royal decree in 1807. Among the Commissions tasks were protection of ancient monuments within the vast Danish empire and acquisition of cultural important artifacts to Copenhagen.

In 1816, Professor *Finnur Magnússon* (1781-1847) was appointed member of the commission, where he was responsible both to establish and to maintain contact with Icelandic officials and antiquarians. A result of that work was a large collection of Icelandic antiquities in *The Royal Museum of Nordic Antiquities (Oldnordisk museum)*. This paper explores Finnur Magnússon's role within the Commission and the political and the ideological thoughts that lay as ground for the preservation of the Icelandic cultural heritage during the first half of the 19th century.

Danish empire, Cultural heritage, Cultural identity, Finnur Magnússon, Iceland, Early nineteenth century

Session: S-02-09 - Rethinking the 18th-Century Danish Empire: North Atlantic and Baltic Borders**Date: 13-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: A Central Periphery? Experimental Governance on 18th-Century Bornholm**Abstract ID: 657**Matthías Aron Ólafsson¹,¹ *Trinity College Dublin, Ireland*

The paper explores the fragmented nature of Danish central authority on the Baltic Island of Bornholm in the eighteenth century, highlighting how governance was shaped by experimental reform. While not challenging the broader pattern of early modern state authority weakening with distance from its metropole, this paper demonstrates how such dynamics were also present near its centre, in a region ostensibly under firm central control and largely overlooked in previous scholarship. Despite its geographical proximity to Copenhagen, Bornholm remained politically peripheral, marked by persistent local contention and repeated clashes between civil and military officials. In 1742, after decades of recurring crises, the Danish crown established a permanent commission to coordinate local administration on the island and to act as an intermediary with the capital. Further experimentation followed between 1781 and 1787, when Copenhagen abolished the office of governor on Bornholm altogether, making the commission a sole governing body. Neither reform prevented unrest. Rather, they may have exacerbated it.

Title: Governing the Household in the Northern Dependencies of the Oldenburg Empire**Abstract ID: 658**Emil Gunnlaugsson¹,¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

Oeconomia, or householding, understood here as the management and organisation of labour, resources, and production, as well as economic decisions such as consumption and trade at the household level, lay at the heart of early modern thought. It is therefore no surprise that the household served as a key site of tension

and negotiation in both economic and social life. This was no different in late eighteenth-century Greenland, Iceland, Finnmark, or the Faroe Islands, which at that time were all dependencies of the Oldenburg monarchy and subject to trading monopolies. By examining four different regulations related to the household, introduced in these dependencies in the late 1770s and early 1780s, I explore both the similarities and differences in how householding was governed in these distinct yet connected contexts, and how these efforts were potentially linked to the trade. In doing so, I also seek to draw together historiographies that remain largely isolated, despite said connections.

Title: Energy and Improvement in the Danish North Atlantic, 1750–1780

Abstract ID: 659

Jón Kristinn Einarsson¹,

¹ *The University of Chicago, United States*

In the latter half of the eighteenth century, a number of natural historians were sent to the lands of the Danish King in the North Atlantic to survey for natural resources and provide suggestions towards economic improvement. One notably underexplored facet of these expeditions was the search for alternative energy sources. Focusing on Iceland, the paper will discuss how natural historians like Eggert Ólafsson and Bjarni Pálsson scouted aggressively for coal deposits in the 1750s. While Norway and Sweden could draw on plentiful resources of wood fuel to power a local mining industry, Iceland faced a stark scarcity due to almost total deforestation. As a result, Icelandic improvers turned their hopes toward tapping into both mineral and geothermal energy as potential catalysts for economic growth, decades before the onset of the industrial revolution in Britain.

Title: The Danish-Norwegian Colony ‘New Greenland’ in the Wider North Atlantic World

Abstract ID: 660

Emil Andersen^{1,2},

¹ *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

² *National Museum of Denmark, Denmark*

Western Greenland was (re)colonised by Denmark-Norway during the eighteenth century. The questions of why and how this happened, however, have been disputed. Employing a counterfactual reading of various discourses on the futuristic and utopic ‘New Greenland’ as it was imagined in the 1720s, this paper paints a vivid

picture of this envisioned colony and its intellectual as well as popular conceptual connections with other areas of the Danish-Norwegian conglomerate. The paper argues, as other historians have also recently proposed, that Greenland (and in consequence its indigenous Inuit population) was understood simultaneously as a former dependency and a potential territory for colonialism in various forms. Moreover, it argues that the early Danish-Norwegian colonial presence in Greenland should not be understood teleologically, but rather in the framework of a North Atlantic 'empire', and that its imaginary trajectory differed tremendously from that of the later century.

Session: S-02-10 - Nordic big health data in historical perspective**Date: 13-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: More than a list of names: The leprosy registry of Norway**Abstract ID: 618**Magnus Vollset¹,¹ *Bergen Universitet, Norway*

The leprosy registry of Norway is recognized by UNESCO as the world's first national patient registry and contains information on more than 8200 persons affected by the disease. When established in 1856, the purpose was to identify the assumed laws of heredity deciding who would later develop the disease. When Gerhard Armauer Hansen in 1874 would argue that the disease was contagious, his argument rested mainly on an epidemiological analysis of the registry. This paper will discuss how registry practices changed, as well as how the names in the registry themselves in recent times have been made part of disseminating the history and challenging the stigma affiliated with the disease.

Title: The evolution of big health data in Sweden**Abstract ID: 619**Ida Al Fakir¹,¹ *Swedish School of Sports and Health Sciences, Sweden*

Big data are today central for practices in disparate arenas such as science, public policy, administration, and business. Big health data are used to evaluate and plan public health policies as well as primary health care, and thus affect how people live their lives. Health and population registers – some of which go back to the eighteenth century in Sweden – are routinely used as sources of data. The availability of comprehensive – digitized – population records and the possibility of linking these to individuals and health data collections has laid the foundation for a virtual scientific success story where Sweden and the Nordic countries stand out as world-leading. Swedish and Nordic big health data appear as natural resources, ready to be mined. This development took off in the 1990s but has a longer history. The purpose of this paper is to examine historically the emergence, evolution and

contents of the Swedish system of big health data. Firstly, I will map the registers that form part of the system and, secondly, discuss when, how, and involving which actors, they transformed from mainly being used as administrative tools to becoming irreplaceable, competitive instruments of global and national public health (and economic) value.

Title: Bartering in data: BCG vaccination campaign, international collaboration and novel data practices in post-war Finland

Abstract ID: 620

Heini Hakosalo¹,

¹ *University of Oulu, Finland*

The paper looks at the post-war tuberculosis vaccination (BCG) campaign from the point of view of the history of big health data, showing that the campaign was – among other things - a major data-gathering and data-exchange maneuver. Mass BCG vaccinations were launched immediately after the war and stepped up thanks to foreign aid in 1947-1948. Finland became a WHO trial area in 1949. The WHO collaboration brought considerable material resources and know-how into the country. In exchange, the Finnish Anti-Tuberculosis Association (FATA) agreed to deliver population-level follow-up data to the WHO. From a strictly medical point of view, the trial was not a success, as the efficacy of the vaccine remains an open question. However, the trial was significant in other respects: it linked Finland to international public health networks, imported novel data practices and embedded the notion that population-level health data can be a valuable resource in international scientific and public health collaborations.

Session: S-02-12 - Crossing boundaries in the court room. The uses of the Dómabókagrunnur database (1617–1976) and the edition of the documents of The Icelandic High Court (1690–1800) in historical research.

Date: 13-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00

Abstract(s):

Title: Attitudes towards Women in Court Cases in the 18th-Century

Abstract ID: 669

Jóhanna Þ. Guðmundsdóttir¹,

¹ *National Archives of Iceland, Iceland*

This talk explores the gendered aspects of several criminal cases from the 18th-century and analyses verdicts in terms of different attitudes towards female and male defendants. Secret births, infanticide, and incest cases will mainly be studied, since such cases often featured two defendants, a man and a woman. An attempt will be made to answer questions such as: Was there a difference on how the court's imposed sentence discussed the man's or woman's part in the crime? What were considered reasonable boundaries regarding the responsibility of each of them separately? What reasons were argued for the sentence? Did any changes occur as the 18th-century progressed?

Title: Maternal Screams in the Courtroom: The Role of the Jury in 19th-Century Iceland

Abstract ID: 670

Ólafur Arnar Sveinsson¹,

¹ *National Archives of Iceland, Iceland*

The courtroom is a structured environment, and yet can be a theater of intense human emotions. Many people are set to play distinct roles at the legal court and borders need to be clear in terms of responsibilities, interactions, and authority. This paper delves into the societal and legal dynamics that influenced who were chosen for the 19th-century jury in Iceland. It asks questions regarding expectations and tasks, as well as potential bias. By scrutinizing legal proceedings of an 1833-criminal case regarding a secret birth, suspected murder, and complicity, this study aims to

provide a comprehensive understanding of how the role of the jury contributed to the judicial process and the pursuit of justice.

Title: Between Rumour and Law: Priests as Agents of Secular Justice in 18th-Century Iceland

Abstract ID: 671

Ragnhildur Hólmgeirsdóttir¹,

¹ *National Archives of Iceland, Iceland*

A striking feature of many cases brought before the Icelandic High Court in the 18th-century is the local priest. In a rural society where secular officials were few and far between but priests plentiful, the local clergy played a significant role in bringing cases of deviant behaviour to the attention of the secular authorities. Many court cases began as a rumour which the priest chose to investigate on his own or report to the next county magistrate. To what extent was this role, as an agent on the boundaries of legal authority, an official part of the duties of the clergy? And what happened when priests either neglected this role or overstepped its margin?

Title: Evolution of Corporal Punishments in Iceland 1653–1900

Abstract ID: 672

Sigríður Hjördís Jörundsdóttir¹,

¹ *National Archives of Iceland, Iceland*

In the Dómabókagrunnur, a database on court records at the National Archives of Iceland, there are more than 900 records that have been marked with the keyword “corporal punishment”. The oldest case took place in Snæfellsnes County and dates to 1653, where Helga Þorsteinsdóttir served a double punishment of flogging for having three children out of wedlock. The youngest example in the database is from Reykjavík in the year 1900, where two teenagers were flogged for theft. In this talk the boundaries that were on one hand in judicial execution and on the other in the legal framework will be critically studied. Finally, this paper addresses the question of what kind of cases a sentence of corporal punishment was issued for during this 250-year period in Iceland.

Session: S-02-13 - Materialitetens gränser – individer, kläder och praktiker i tidigmodern tid**Date: 13-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Silkesnäsduk och sidenband - textila förhandlingar med Kungl. Maj:t**Abstract ID: 398**Martina Bööck¹,¹ *Linnéuniversitetet, Sweden*

När en ny överflödsförordning skulle genomföras 1794 skickades en skrivelse ut från Kungl. Maj:t till socknarna runt om i Sverige. Meningen var att allmogen skulle inkomma med synpunkter kring överflödets inskränkningar av sin klädedräkt, framföra allt avskaffandet av sidentyger. Överflödsförordningarna var ett sätt för staten att försöka styra konsumtionen i landet. Detta paper tar sin utgångspunkt i vad socknarna svarade och vad som var förhandlingsbart för allmogen. Presentationen utforskar den lokala befolkningens strategier i att sätta gränser både uppåt och neråt i hierarkin liksom vad allmogen officiellt kunde tänka sig att gå med på.

Title: Kattuner, Karlskroniter och konsumtion – klädinnehav i förändring i det tidigmoderna Blekinge**Abstract ID: 399**Christina Dackling¹,¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

Klädkonsumtion har genom historien påverkats av näringsmässiga, geografiska och sociala gränser. Hur dessa gränser i realiteten har inverkat på hur olika människor har konsumerat, ägt, och försörjt sig med kläder har dock varierat kraftigt i olika kontexter. I detta avhandlingsprojekt undersöker jag klädinnehav i Blekinge under 1700- och 1800-talens konsumtionsmässiga omvälvning med fokus på omfattning, variation och ekonomiskt värde, samt hur den alltmer globala handeln avspeglas i det lokala modets uttryck.

Med bouppteckningar från Karlskrona och dess kringliggande landsbygd som källa studeras blekingarnas tillgång till kläder, och hur olika slags textilier kommit att införlivas respektive succesivt fasas ut ur hushållens konsumtion. I blickfånget står

de olikheter som kan iakttas mellan befolkningen i staden och på landsbygden, mellan kvinnor och män, och mellan samhällets olik skikt.

Title: Beyond Beg, Borrow, and Steal? Material Culture and Marginal Economies in Early Modern Sweden

Abstract ID: 400

Astrid Wendel-Hansen¹,

¹ *Friedrich Schiller University, Germany*

The early modern period was both a time of social and economic inequality as well as limited resources. Focusing specifically on the theft of clothes as they appear in court material, this paper aims to shed light on the economic activities of marginal groups in seventeenth-century Sweden. Thefts have primarily been examined within criminal history, but historians have also shown that they played a key role in the consumption and material culture activities of non-elites. For most people, theft was not the primary means through which they earned their living, but rather a part of their life-cycle experience. Thefts are particularly instructive, because they show the grey areas of early modern economy and how the boundaries between legal and illegal activities were often negotiable and subject to different interpretations.

Session: S-02-14 - Devotion Across Borders 2: Texts, Practices, and Communities in Scandinavia and the Baltic Region (1100-1600)

Date: 13-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00

Abstract(s):

Title: The Eastern Borders of Catholic Hagiography: the Case of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (late 14th - 16th century)

Abstract ID: 394

Gita Drungilienė¹,

¹ *Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, Lithuania*

The multicultural GDL, the last in Europe to accept Catholic baptism (1387) through an alliance with Poland, became an eastern periphery at the crossroads with Byzantine culture. Hagiographic texts spread as an element of Western culture. The first known (before 1397) and to become most popular was Jacobus de Voragine's *Legenda aurea*. The *Liber revelationum* of Saint Brigitta, the *Vitas patrum* by Hieronymus, the texts of Petrus de Natali, Johannes Herold, Petrus de Palude and other popular hagiographic texts were recieved too. These texts spread throughout the territory of the GDL, and translations into Ruthenian appeared. *Żywoty świętych* (Vilnius 1579, and later editions) by Piotr Skarga became a bestseller, was used by Greek Catholics (Uniates) and translated into Ruthenian. The late adopters of medieval Catholic hagiography, the society of the GDL, "shared" it with Byzantine culture, and for a long time maintained its relevance even in the post-Reformation period.

Title: European saints in Danish manuscripts: evidence from the long twelfth century

Abstract ID: 397

Synnøve Midtbø Myking¹,

¹ *Royal Danish Library, Denmark*

The period from c. 1090 to 1220 saw the emergence and establishment of Danish book culture and book production. From Lund a whole group of manuscripts dated to the first decades of the 1100s survive, some of which contain calendars or other

evidence of saints' cults. Similar manuscripts, usually fragmentary, have survived from other Danish centres of the period.

This presentation will examine a range of manuscripts dated to the long twelfth century, aiming to detect patterns of international influence as reflected in the commemoration of saints. To what extent do saints from Germany and England – the two areas generally accepted to have been main influences on the early Danish church – dominate? How often do we find cults linked to specific centres abroad? And to what extent did regions outside of Germany and England influence the commemoration of saints in twelfth-century Denmark?

Title: Crossing Borders: Latin and Low German Prayerbooks from the Cistercian Convent of Medingen in the Collections at the Royal Library Copenhagen

Abstract ID: 396

Carolin Gluchowski¹,

¹ *Oxford University, United Kingdom*

The Royal Library in Copenhagen houses four significant manuscripts from the Cistercian Convent of Medingen, located in Lower Saxony, Germany. The convent, established in the 13th century and continuing to exist today, has recently attracted scholarly interest due to its extensive collection of medieval manuscripts. Over 60 Latin and Low German prayer books have been attributed to the convent, including two of the oldest and most crucial specimens now residing in the Royal Library (Ms GKS 3451-8°; Ms GKS 3452-8°). This paper explores how these important prayer books arrived in Copenhagen, delving into the historical and cultural connections that link these devotional landscapes, unravelling a unique narrative across centuries and borders.

Session: S-03-02 - Troubled Boundaries? The Lutheran Church, Peace, and War in Finland, 1939 - 1944**Date: 13-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Troubled Boundaries? The Lutheran Church, Peace, and War in Finland, 1939 - 1944**Abstract ID: 531**Ilkka Huhta¹, **Petra Kuivala**,¹¹ *University of Eastern Finland, Finland*

Finland now shares more borders with Russia than all the other NATO countries combined. Historically, this border has also been a cultural one in many ways. Finland has long held the belief that religion has firmly bound the country to the West. In times of crisis, such thinking has tended to intensify.

During the World War II, the Finnish Lutheran Church played multiple roles, both at the eastern front and in other parts of the country. It also assumed a nationalist-ideological role, with the war against the Soviet Union being interpreted as a religious war against an atheistic imperialist state. The armed alliance with Germany was also seen as a defense of the common Lutheran faith.

The field of Church History at the UEF is currently engaged in and has completed several doctoral theses focusing on issues of war and peace. We therefore propose a session on the role of the church and religion in Finland during World War. This session aims to explore how the church in Finland influenced public sentiment and the provision of spiritual and material support. Additionally, we seek to illuminate the ideological role of the church and religion in the efforts toward war and peace.

Title: Threat on the Border? Finnish Lutheran Church on Karelian Isthmus in Autumn of 1939.**Abstract ID: 532**Ismo Pellikka¹,¹ *University of Eastern Finland, Finland*

How did the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland shape the mood of the citizens in the months leading up to the Winter War in the Diocese of Vyborg in the autumn of 1939?

The sources of the research are church documents, newspapers and magazines, Defence Forces documents, parish histories and memoirs.

The assumption is that in the border parishes, influencing moods was particularly important in view of the proximity of the border, the threat of war and the potential outbreak of war in the first combat zone. The archival material of 50 parishes relevant to this study has been preserved and is available.

The key finding is that the church took and took on a central role as the implementer of mood control and observer of moods. For example, the regulations required military chaplains to participate in the observation and guidance of men's moods and the improvement of their well-being.

In the light of the results of this study, the responsibilities of the various actors in the role of modern communication and the influence on moods in a national and world political context can be discussed.

Title: Rhetorics of Suffering – Ingrian Finns at the Klooga concentration camp in Estonia 1943–1944 from a Finnish perspective**Abstract ID: 534**Reetta Kallanne¹,¹ *University of Eastern Finland, Finland*

Finnish soldiers and civilians volunteered at the Klooga concentration camp in Estonia in 1943-1944 during the population transfers of the Ingrian-Finns to Finland. In this paper, I analyze the meanings of the rhetoric about the suffering of the Ingrian-Finns that Finnish volunteers used in their letters, diaries, and reports. Suffering was used in rhetoric to create a narrative of the rescue of the Ingrian-Finns, in which the Finns played a significant role. It was used to gain sympathy from

Finland and to increase the sense of `common Finnishness`. Neither Jews nor other minorities or nationalities were discussed through the rhetoric of suffering. The rhetoric became a way of defining good and evil, us and the other.

Session: S-03-04 - History of Exploring, Challenging, and Policing Criminal Boundaries in Nordic Countries: Crime and Punishment in 1830s–1930s Sweden and Finland

Date: 13-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30

Abstract(s):

Title: “Most Shameless Behaviour During Evening Prayer”: Disobedience and Disciplinary Actions in Lappeenranta Spinhouse, 1871–1880

Abstract ID: 473

Johanna Annola¹,

¹ *Tampere University, Finland*

This paper discusses Lappeenranta Spinhouse, a women’s prison operational in eastern Finland between 1819 and 1881. The institution held both female vagrants and female convicts. Most convicts were serving a sentence for infanticide or illegal abortion. By looking at the surviving administrative documents from the 1870s, the paper discusses disobedience and disciplinary actions within prison walls. The short matter-of-fact entries, written by the warden of the spinhouse, carry plenty of information on how the inmates broke prison rules and how the officials responded to their misconduct. However, the paper also seeks to analyse disobedience more widely in relation to time and place. What were the most common situations for inmates to misbehave – and what does this tell us about their understanding of prison life and carceral TimeSpace?

Title: An Orderly and Trained Guard Force: The Prison Guard School in Sweden 1913–1939

Abstract ID: 474

Anders Pedersson¹,

¹ *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

Since the beginning of the 20th century, prison staff training has been an important criminal policy issue. What is required of them that is closest to and that will rehabilitate the inmates? This paper examines how the Swedish Prison Service during the 1910s established the so-called Guarding School, which then in the period up to the Second World War ambulated between different prisons.

Through an analysis of the nature and development of the guard school, the type of knowledge and skills that prison personnel were expected to possess and how this relates to contemporary criminal policy reforms is exposed. The investigation thus highlights how prison education was related to the emerging welfare state and its perceptions of deviance and correction. At the same time, the analysis of the content of the guard training is a contribution to a history of knowledge about the handling of criminals as well as the training of those who had to handle them.

Title: Prison in the Newspaper “Socialdemokraten” 1885–1910: A Discourse in the Sign of Class Struggle

Abstract ID: 475

Viktor Englund¹,

¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

The conservative and Christian ideological basis of prison care in Sweden during the late 19th and early 20th centuries is well documented in previous research. In accordance with the ideas of the Philadelphia system and its use of solitary confinement prisoners was to be reformed in isolation with the help of Christian literature, sermons, and conversations with prison chaplains. This is well documented in previous research. However, there has been considerably less focus on alternative perspectives regarding the effects of imprisonment on inmates and the meaning and experience of incarceration. In this presentation, I will discuss how Sweden's leading socialist newspaper, *Social-Demokraten*, portrayed prison sentences, prison care, and the inmates. Additionally, I will examine the proposals put forth regarding improvements in prison care.

Title: Crossing The Appropriate Boundaries. Perceptions of Female Body in Violent Crime and Criminal Court in 19th-Century Finland

Abstract ID: 476

Merja Pyykkönen¹,

¹ *University of Oulu, Finland*

Concerning the history of violence in Finland, little research attention has been paid to the experiences of violence when it comes to violence against a woman's body. Nevertheless, in history the female body has been perceived differently by different actors – legal, medical, as well as common people. In this paper I discuss these viewpoints by analysing the aftermath (i.e. criminal investigation) of violent crimes towards women in 19th century Finland. I argue that preconceived boundaries

surrounding the female body were sometimes intentionally blurred and stretched, for example, by emphasising active and non-active bodily functions of the victim. Sometimes these appropriate boundaries involved negligence and/or decline to thoroughly examine a woman's body after a violent act. This in turn reflected to the evaluation of intention of the violent offender and therefore repercussions.

Session: S-03-06 - Rejsebøger**Date: 13-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: The restoration of Iceland Hans Becker and Jón Grunnvíkingur's very different views.**Abstract ID: 716**Árni Daníel Júlíusson¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

The end of the 17th century brought with it very difficult times for Iceland. A famine devastated the country, causing numerous deaths and widespread desertions of farms. Only a few years after the famine, when all was normal again, another catastrophe hit the country, this time an epidemic of biblical proportion. This was the Big Smallpox, Stórabóla, causing the death of a large part of those of the people in Iceland that had survived the famine. Iceland lay in ruins and has never recovered totally from this double whammy. What followed was research and debates into the causes of the dismal state of Iceland, which is a very important context for the project under the loop in this session on the Rejsebog. Two of the participants were the scribes of Árni Magnússon, Hans Becker and Jón Grunnvíkingur. Their views could not have been more different, and their positions mark the opposing views in the debate on the „restoration of Iceland.“ Echoes of these positions can be heard in the positions of Eggert Ólafsson, and much later in the work of Jónas Hallgrímsson, the national poet of Iceland. This will be discussed in this lecture.

Title: Ferðabókin – Nation Building and attitudes towards languages**Abstract ID: 715**Auður Hauksdóttir¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

This talk will focus on the attitudes toward languages that appear in *Journey through Iceland* (Icel. *Ferðabóki*) of Eggert Ólafsson and Bjarni Pálsson. Both studied in Copenhagen during the eighteenth century, and would almost certainly have been conscious of the leading ideologies and trends of the time.

After the middle of the eighteenth century, patriotism became a central issue in Denmark. Growing nationalist sentiment increasingly focused on the mother tongue,

which was considered a major cornerstone of national identity. In tandem with this negative attitudes towards German rose, as the language was perceived as the major treat against Danish. The Icelandic language and medieval literature played an important role in the development of Danish national identity. Knowledge of Icelandic could be of key importance for researching the Danish language, and for interpreting the meaning of older writings. Languages that had a long tradition of writing and prestigious literature were highly respected, and it was significant to find an unbroken connection between the contemporary and original language.

Eggert's and Bjarni's writings reflect the widespread view of the time.

Title: Reise igiennem Island in the history of expeditions

Abstract ID: 714

Daniel Henschen¹,

¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

Eggert Ólafsson and Bjarni Pálsson's voyage is not only remarkable in relation to the exploration of Iceland. It was organised as an ongoing interaction between recognised researchers in the field and an established scientific institution in the form of the Danish Academy of Sciences. As such the voyage finds its place among the early scientific expeditions of the 18th century, such as Linnaeus's and his disciples' voyages and the expeditions of the Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg. This context of scientific exploration will be discussed in the paper with departure in the practice that Eggert and Bjarni developed in the relationship with the Danish professors at home as well as the ongoing circulation of the expedition's results to a Danish and European audience. A point of focus will be the differences and similarities to the next and most famous Danish expedition of that century, the voyage to Felix Arabia, which began its departure four years after the end of Eggert and Bjarni's voyage (in book form, the results from both expeditions were published in the same year, 1772).

Session: S-03-11 - Material and cultural border crossing**Date: 13-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Objects Cross Borders, Borders Cross Objects: Japan and Northern Europe in the Nineteenth Century**Abstract ID: 347**Ulrike Spring¹,¹ *University of Oslo, Norway*

This paper examines material aspects of travels between Northern Europe and Japan during the Meiji period (1868–1912). I will focus on objects travellers acquired in Japan, many of which became part of European museum collections. Why were some objects considered as particularly interesting collectibles? How did these objects change meaning when crossing cultural and political borders? What do they tell us about images of Japan and Europe at the time? My sources are travelogues and newspaper reports, guidebooks, adverts, maps and albums produced by the emerging tourism industry. The paper draws on concepts of cultural encounters in the context of late nineteenth-century globalising processes and border crossings, travel and tourism as well as museum and collection history.

Title: Materialism across borders**Abstract ID: 26**Kaisa Tolvanen¹,¹ *Tampere University, Finland*

For centuries, material objects have moved across borders, challenging the boundaries between religions and cultures. Materiality has always been present in human interaction. My paper presents the interaction between Christianity and Tibetan Buddhism in the context of missionary work. Finnish missionaries worked for decades (1895-1960) in the former kingdom of Sikkim, close to the Tibetan border. They failed to convert people on a large scale, but they did establish schools and health care in rural Himalayan villages. My paper focuses on material aspects of interaction, such as medical equipment or sacred statues and paintings. I ask what kind of agency materiality had in the interaction between religions and how it influenced both Sikkim and Finland. My theoretical background is in New Materialism

and Actor-network theory. The methodological focus is on photographs as historical sources. In my paper I speak of materialism in both literal and metaphorical terms.

Session: S-03-13 - Stadsskrivare och domböckernas kvantitativa och kvalitativa utveckling i 1600-talets Sverige**Date: 13-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Den kvantitativa utvecklingen av innehållet rådstugurätternas domböcker i 1600-talets Sverige**Abstract ID: 460**Petteri Impola^{1,2},¹ *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*² *University of Helsinki, Finland*

Det är känt att längden på innehållet i de svenska underrätternas domböcker ökade under 1600-talet. I början av århundradet kunde den renoverade domboken från en stad per år bara vara några få sidor, i slutet av århundradet var antalet sidor några dussintals, och i de största städerna till och med hundratals sidor. Jag fördjupar denna utveckling genom att undersöka den kvantitativa utvecklingen av de renoverade domböckerna i flera olika städer i det svenska riket under stormaktstiden. Även om den stora bilden av denna förändring är känd, beaktar jag att det fanns skillnader mellan städerna i fråga om domböckernas omfattning och spridningstakt. Även om det var fråga om en riksomfattande utveckling av rättsväsendet, vill jag hävda att denna utveckling på stadsnivå var kopplad till de övergångsperioder då en stadsskrivare byttes ut, eftersom det förutom antalet mål som behandlades i rådstugurätterna också fanns skillnader i de enskilda stadsskrivarnas skriftliga uttryck.

Title: Latin expressions in Swedish town court records in the 17th century**Abstract ID: 461**Minna Vesa¹,¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

During the 17th century, written court records took on a more detailed form, necessitating expansion and diversification of judicial language and vocabulary. Although Swedish was the primary language used in court records, foreign expressions were also common. This paper examines linguistic developments, focusing on Latin vocabulary, in transcribed court records from two towns in modern-

day Finland: Helsinki, a burgeoning coastal town, and Kajaani, a smaller peripheral town. Through quantitative analysis, I categorize Latin words based on their usage, examine differences among local courts and individual scribes, and track temporal changes. Additionally, I focus on the origins and functions of Latin words, exploring why they were incorporated into predominantly vernacular texts and what inspired their usage. The primary question to be addressed in the study is whether the usage of foreign words was related to actual linguistic development or merely reflected the style and habits of individual scribes.

**Session: S-04-01 - Experiences of War i the Nordic Countries
1940-45****Date: 14-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Just war and the phenomenon of desertation**Abstract ID: 553**Moa Hanson¹,¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

This text offers a methodological and epistemological reflection on how desertion can be approached as a *border act (gränshandling)*, a category whose meaning shifts depending on legal, institutional, and discursive context. Focusing on Finnish soldiers who deserted to Sweden during WWII, it explores how plural and fragmentary sources alternately frame their actions as criminal, moral, or protective. The discussion highlights how interpretation, documentation, and classification shape historical understanding, and reflects on the historian's role in creating coherence from dispersed material. Rather than presenting new empirical findings, the text proposes an approach for analysing actions situated between state power, individual agency, and archival logic.

Title: Everyday betrayal in occupied Norway**Abstract ID: 554**Martin Hårdstedt¹,¹ *Umeå universitet, Sweden*

Norway was occupied by the Nazigerman army 1940-45. During the years of occupation, ordinary people all over Norway were forced to take a stand as to whether or not they would cooperate with the occupying power. The German occupation regime was particularly harsh in Trondheim. After the war, thousands of Trondheimers were searched for treason. Based on extensive court material, this investigation seeks answers to the question why ordinary Tronheimers committed treason. Where was the line between being a traitor and not? What explanations did people use afterwards to justify their actions?

Title: Mortality Disparity Between Finnish- and Swedish-Speaking Men in Finland During World War II**Abstract ID: 555**Ilari Taskinen¹,¹ *Tampere University, Finland*

My research centers on the history of private and collective war experiences through topics such as wartime letter writing and soldiers' life courses. I am especially keen on exploring novel approaches to address these historical phenomena with large digital datasets.

My central research topics are wartime letter writing and intimate relationships, which I studied in my PhD dissertation "Social Lives in Letters: Finnish soldiers' epistolary relationships, intimate practices, and emotionality in World War II" (Tampere University, 2021). I lead project "DIGIKÄKI – Digital History and Handwritten Sourced", in which we have digitized wartime letters and analyze them quantitatively.

Title: Crime and Radicalization in Denmark 1944-1945**Abstract ID: 557**Claus Bundgård Christensen¹,¹ *Roskilde Universitet, Denmark*

In September 1944, the German occupying forces dissolved the Danish police and until liberation, the intact civil society was without a police force. This presentation is based on a study of the radicalization processes that occurred in Danish society during this period. This radicalization led to a significant increase in crime and its manifestations, including a readiness to commit violence, vigilantism, and organized crime. During this time, crime in Denmark underwent a modernization process that was markedly different from the one that took place in the interwar period and foreshadowed the post-war crime landscape.

Title: Norwegian Nurses In The German Red Cross- Exploring Silences And Untold Stories From The Norwegian Treason Trials**Abstract ID: 746**Lilli Wolland Blomberg¹,¹ *University Of Edinburgh, United Kingdom*

Norwegian nurses who volunteered to serve as part of the German Red Cross (1942-1945) remain one of the most contested groups in Norwegian post-war memory. This article applies memory studies and socio-legal scholarship to archival material, to explore silences found in 20 treason trial cases of nurses and how these silences can be understood within the wider context of the courtroom and societal norms. By doing so, this study contributes towards increased knowledge about the nurses' participation in the war and how these narratives have influenced Norway's post-war collective memory

Session: S-04-02 - “Liquid Neutrality: The 1970s Energy Crisis, Cold War Middle East and the Foreign Economic Policies of European Neutrals”

Date: 14-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30

Abstract(s):

Title: A multifaceted neutrality: Switzerland’s attitude towards belligerent countries in the Middle East, 1973-1988

Abstract ID: 551

Samuel Beroud¹,

¹ *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

This paper will examine how Switzerland defined its status as a neutral country during two major crises in the Middle East: the Yom Kippur War and the Iran-Iraq War. Iran and Israel were Switzerland’s main trade partners in this region. How did Bern react when the Arab countries urged Swiss authorities to boycott Israel after the 1973 war and the resulting occupation of Arab territories? Did Switzerland react similarly when it was pressed to implement sanctions against Iran, initially after the occupation of the US embassy in Tehran and then during the Iran-Iraq War? By answering these questions, this paper will develop the concept of "liquid neutrality" - a flexible form of neutrality designed to preserve its political room for maneuver and protect its economic interests.

Title: Neutrality, commercial policy and the expansion of trade in the global south. The case of "Finding Finland" campaign in Saudi Arabia in 1975

Abstract ID: 752

Antero Holmila¹, Laura Ipatti²,

¹ *Jyväskylän yliopisto, Finland*

² *University of Turku, Finland*

Title: Liquid Neutrality: Finnish, Swedish and Swiss economic diplomacy towards OPEC countries 1973-1986"

Abstract ID: 751

Antero Holmila¹,

¹ *Jyväskylän yliopisto, Finland*

Session: S-04-03 - Nordic climate histories – entangling the boundaries of climate and society**Date: 14-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Interdisciplinary Investigations of Responses to Natural Hazards in Early Modern Iceland**Abstract ID: 558****A.E.J. Ogilvie¹****¹ Astrid E. G. Ogilvie, Boulder, Colorado, United States**

It is well known that Iceland is affected by volcanic activity, both in the past and present. Other natural hazards have included the sea ice brought to its shores on the East Greenland current as well as avalanches, earthquakes, blowing sand, and an often harsh and variable climate. Added to these were a fragile ecosystem and limited possibilities for subsistence. Within the context of these and related environmental challenges this presentation will use evidence drawn from both the natural and social sciences to consider to what extent the population exhibited resilience in the face of such hazards and how it adapted to these - or failed to adapt. The focus is on crisis years during the early modern period, broadly from ca. 1600 to 1800 CE.

Title: The Old Hard Winter**Abstract ID: 559****Skafti Ingimarsson¹****¹ Skafti Ingimarsson, Reykjavik, Iceland**

In 1600, the Huaynaputina volcano in Peru produced one of the largest explosive eruptions in South America in historical times. The effects of the eruption are a matter of debate amongst scientists and climate historians, with some scholars arguing the eruption changed weather patterns on a global scale – resulting in several years of worldwide cooling – while others maintain the effects were more localised. This paper discusses the Huaynaputina eruption and its consequences in Iceland. The Icelandic chronicles demonstrate that prolonged cooling and sea ice swept the island during 1600–1605, resulting in famine which devastated parts of the country. The paper concludes that the catastrophe was volcanic in origin and

indicates that the prolonged cooling, which swept the northern hemisphere, in general, at the start of the seventeenth century, was the result of a cluster of volcanic eruptions, but not a single eruption, as has been previously suggested.

Title: Reliance on marine resources during “green years”: The importance of the accessible Oslo Fjord fisheries during the 1740-1743 famine years in South-Eastern Norway

Abstract ID: 560

Wanda Marcussen ¹

¹ ***University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway***

In the early 1740s, Norway faced a severe famine, driven by a cold and wet climate, causing widespread crop failures. The lack of foodstuff and spreading epidemics had a devastating impact on the Norwegian population, especially in the country's southeastern region. However, the available sources suggest that coastal communities along the Oslo Fjord experienced an unusual abundance of fish. The article examines how these coastal areas coped during the famine by relying on marine resources, looking to reports sent to the Danish Chancellery which indicate that the plentiful fish supply contributed to reduced death rates in coastal regions compared to inland areas. Importantly, the Oslo Fjord's fisheries relied on traditional harvesting and processing methods and were not focused on trade, which ensured that marine resources remained accessible for local consumption. The access to the sea provided crucial sustenance during the famine for common people, underscoring the coast as a vital border region where marine and terrestrial food cultures intersected, playing a key role in early modern climate adaptation and mitigation.

Title: Volcanism, climate and Nordic famines in the 1601–1603

Abstract ID: 561

Heli Huhtamaa ¹

¹ ***Heli Hutamaa, Bern, Switzerland***

It is rather well known that many Nordic countries suffered from severe food shortages in 1601 CE and in the following years. However, these food crises have received surprisingly little attention from historians, especially when compared to the research done on famines of the 1690s. In this presentation, I will explore what was the possible trigger of the climatic downturn at the beginning of the 17th century, what impacts did it have on environment and agriculture, and last, what were the societal consequences of this climatic shock.

Session: S-04-04 - History of Knowledge in Action – Empirical Approaches to the History of Knowledge**Date: 14-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Microhistorical connections as knowledge networks in the real life –An example from the Finnish Society for the Advancement of Popular Education**Abstract ID: 440**Mikko Myllyntausta¹,¹ *University of Turku, Finland*

Networks are a mainstay in the history of knowledge. To move forward with empirical approaches in this field, it is worth paying closer attention to how aspects of knowledge theorised in general discussions can be seen and studied in real-life activities of historical actors and their networks. I discuss the Finnish Society for the Advancement of Popular Education and its administrators' connections that were employed to produce educational material on numerous topics. This small-scale example shows how in the early 20th-century Finland, the production of educational material was reliant on few individual people and their connections to those deemed 'experts'. These networks were fragile and highly contingent. For example, reliance on select individuals to produce knowledge resulted in obstacles to knowledge when those connections broke down. And who was deemed an expert, depended on connections individual actors happened to have. This case illustrates microhistorical real-life practices of production of widely distributed knowledge.

Title: The Circulation of Women's Medical and Scientific Knowledge Gained Under Nazi Persecution**Abstract ID: 441**Victoria Van Orden Martínez¹,¹ *Linköping University, Sweden*

During the Second World War and the Holocaust, individuals persecuted by the Nazis studied for and worked in medical and natural science professions under terrible circumstances, including as forced laborers, in clandestine schools, and underground resistance movements. Women's involvement in these activities has often been marginalized as "care work" rather than serious medical work, with the

result that the scientific knowledge women gained under Nazi persecution and how they implemented it in their subsequent medical and scientific careers has gone largely unexamined. This paper will discuss my research on female Holocaust survivors who studied for degrees and worked in the natural and medical sciences outside their home countries, which aims in part to understand what knowledge they gained from their experiences under Nazi persecution and in transit and how was it used in their careers.

Title: The History of Knowledge through Early Modern Private Libraries: Empirical Findings and the Digital Humanities

Abstract ID: 443

Frank Ejby Poulsen ^{1,2},

¹ *Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Spain*

² *The Bayreuth Humboldt Centre, University of Bayreuth, Germany*

What can the study of Early Modern private libraries bring to the field of the history of knowledge? And how are digital tools helping to extract, organise and share data, as well as provide useful analysis? In this paper, I will present empirical examples from three seventeenth century libraries: the Devonshire library (Thomas Hobbes and the Cavendish family), the library of Don Juan José de Austria (Spanish general and politician), and Hermann Conring's library (professor at the University of Helmstedt).

Digital tools with transcribing manuscripts to catalogue the books and other objects in the library in open access repository or identifying exact editions. They also contribute to reconstructing virtual bookshelves from the data, identify local orderings and constructions of knowledge, intellectual and social networks, and possibly more with big data analysis of the content of libraries compared to intellectual productions of their users.

Session: S-04-05 - Nordic Colonialism**Date: 14-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: 'I lost my way in my stories': Perspectives Across the North Atlantic**Abstract ID: 477**Robert William Rix¹,¹ *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

Between the 17th and 19th centuries, several Greenlanders came to Denmark, most forcibly transported. The Indigenous people were frequently coerced into participating in shows or parades designed to captivate the public and draw in donors. This falls under the category of the 'exhibitionary complex' (Tony Bennet), where institutions create performances to advance certain narratives and tell specific stories. In this presentation, I will focus on the multifaceted representations surrounding the two Greenlanders Pooq and Qiperoq, who came to Denmark in 1724. There are both textual and visual representations of their appearance and performances in Copenhagen. Pooq, who travelled at his own request, later provided accounts of his European experience upon returning home. The presentation will explore what insights can be gained from Pooq's story and how it was shaped by the processes of mediation. The original oral account eventually became the subject of the first-ever printed publication in Greenland in 1857, complete with accompanying woodcuts. This highlights the fusion of cultural traditions at play from the very beginning. The presentation will unpack the complexity of colonial storytelling by addressing the negotiations between various representations.

Title: Colonial, post-colonial and near-indigenous discourse. Greenland in Icelandic political strategy**Abstract ID: 478**Ann-Sofie Nielsen Gremaud¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland*

The dissolution of the Danish empire is a slow process that is still unfolding. The current geopolitical momentum for countries such as Greenland and Iceland within the Arctic and their strengthened political ties should be seen within this greater

context of a long-term coexistence in a colonial framework. Just as association with Greenland today marks opportunities within the new Arctic, Icelandic dissociations from Greenland in the 19th and early 20th was a way to underline Iceland's position in an imperialist and racist system. In order to strengthen Iceland's position in the Arctic different optics and discourses are applied in order to reframe the political relationship with Greenland. In this paper, I will look closer at the Icelandic Foreign Ministries' *Greenland Report* from 2020 that outlines potentials for future collaboration and a reconceptualization of the relation to analyze the discourses at play and trace their roots back in history.

Title: Absorbing Siberia: Food and the Boundaries of Civilization at the 17th and 18th Century Colonial Frontier

Abstract ID: 225

Olga Trufanova^{1, 2},

¹ GWZO (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe), Germany

² Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies, Uni Regensburg, Germany

The period of the 17th and 18th centuries featured a rapid expansion of the Russian Empire into Northern Eurasia and a transformation in the scope of knowledge about Siberian Indigenous peoples. Around the same time, the ideas of Enlightenment came into flux in Europe and Russia, forging concepts of civilization and human progress. In these ideas, food emerged as a central element. Using post- and decolonial approaches, I analyze European and Russian travelogues, ethnographic studies, chronicles, and colonial documents to critically interrogate the intellectual discourse on Siberian peoples and civilization through the food lens. While acting as a cultural and physical boundary between Siberian natives and newcomers, food could also challenge or undermine the claims of Russian and European superiority over local peoples and their systems of knowledge. Rather than being merely an object of disgust and othering, food in the discourse of Siberian Indigenous peoples revealed contradictions between colonial discourses and practices, between food theories and actual dietary experiences, and uncovered pitfalls of civilization as such. The study showcases the ambivalent role that food played in early modern colonial encounters in Siberia, epitomizing civilizational differences on the one hand, and celebrating human diversity, creativity, and resilience on the other.

Session: S-04-06 - Environmental History: Various Perspectives**Date: 14-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Paper Technologies of Weather and Climate Inscription Across the Danish Empire**Abstract ID: 344**Dann Grotum¹,¹ *European University Institute, Italy*

Abstract:

This paper is based on my ongoing PhD research into the practices and imaginaries of a diverse set of knowledge-producing actors as they regionalized, scaled, navigated, and inhabited weather and climates within the Danish empire during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It also explores how imperialism underpinned the professionalization and institutionalization of scientific disciplines such as meteorology and climatology. In this paper, I examine how Danish administrators, including commanders, physicians, teachers, and missionaries, quantified and tabulated the weather and climate of Greenland, with comparisons to other territories and colonies, including the Danish West Indies (now the US Virgin Islands) and the Faroe Islands.

The paper emphasizes the diversity of these knowledge producers in terms of place, space, education, occupation, and authority, aligning with international scholarship on meteorology and empire. While some actors were based in stable institutions in the imperial metropole, others operated outside Denmark proper, often seeking funding, expertise, and authority from the capital. This research contributes to our understanding of the interplay between imperialism and scientific development, highlighting the varied roles and practices of knowledge-production within the Danish empire.

Keywords:

Danish empire, meteorology, climatology, imperialism, knowledge production, eighteenth century, nineteenth century

Title: Forest and settlement fires in Finland - Resilience and vulnerability of 17th century peasant communities**Abstract ID: 54**Jakob Starlander¹,¹ *Bern University, Switzerland*

Fires do not respect boundaries or rules of ownership, as the 17th century farming community came to realise to a great extent. In Finland (then part of the Swedish Empire), slash-and-burn agriculture was commonly practised and peasants in many places began to produce large quantities of tar for the international market. The forests where this production took place were owned as commons (Sw. *allmänningar*) by the peasant communities. With increased production came increased exploitation of the forests, putting pressure on both the institutional structure of the peasantry and the forests themselves. This also led to an increase in forest and settlement fires, and in this presentation I will show how these communities were affected by this, as well as discuss the resilience and vulnerability of the peasant community in relation to fire disasters during the period. The aim is to explain the socio-economic impacts of forest fires from a bottom-up and top-down perspective. I will also discuss these issues in relation to periods of drought and climate variability. Using local district court records and Swedish legislation, I will explain how and why fires occurred, how they affected individuals and communities, and what help was available to those affected by fires. Legislation is also used to explain the reasons why it was implemented, and the impact it had on co-operation and collaboration between farmers and officials

Title: Between the Present and the Future: The Temporalities of Youth Climate Activism**Abstract ID: 79**Anna Friberg¹,¹ *Linköping University, Sweden*

This paper examines languages uses in contemporary youth climate activism to discuss how the complex relationship between the temporal modalities of present and future can be conceptualized. Using theoretical inspiration from the domain of temporality studies, the paper argues that the activists are articulating threats of a future climate collapse as anticipations which draws the future to the present and makes it actionable. In particular, the paper focuses on articulations of justice and

argues that the kind of justice that is advocated by the activists is one that focuses on the future, it is a matter of prospective justice. Hence, the paper puts forward a non-dominant idea of justice to the existing literature about historical injustice and environmental justice which tends to focus on justice as a retrospective act. In contrast, the paper argues for the need to conceptualize justice so that it better acknowledges the dialectic relationship between the past, present, and future.

Title: Revisiting the Forest Degradation in Finland, 1820–1920: Landscape Imagery, Newspaper Debates and Expert Knowledge in Comparison

Abstract ID: 16

Pirita Frigren¹, Antti_Vallius², Antti_Räihä²,

¹ *University of Turku, Finland*

² *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

The first state-driven analysis on the forest resources in Finland was conducted in the 1850s. The investigation by surveyor Claes Wilhelm Gylden showed dramatic forest degradation especially in certain Karelian areas in southeast Finland. Already in the 1820s, the Swedish Dalecarlia (Dalarna) was alerted suffering from similar deforestation. This expert knowledge was challenged by the landscape imagery produced particularly in the late 19th century, which portrayed the flourishing forests. Forests also continued to be an important source of income for the local peasants. In this paper we discuss the different conceptions of forest degradation in Karelia by comparing visual source material and public newspaper debates with the contemporary forestry expertise. The paper is based on the Kone Foundation research project (MetSuRi: Metsäkuvan kääntöpuoli. Metsäkatoalueiden yhteiskuntahistoria ja maisemakuvasto Suomessa ja Ruotsissa noin 1820–1920) in which we study social history and landscape imagery of forest degradation areas in Finland and Sweden, c. 1820–1920.

Session: S-04-08 - Jurisdiktionsgrænser og retlig konflikthåndtering i middelalderens og tidlig moderne tids norske og danske købstæder

Date: 14-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Rettens grænser – forholdet mellem by og land i middelalderens Danmark

Abstract ID: 466

Per Andersen¹,

¹ *University of Southern Denmark, Denmark*

Selvom de første danske købstadslove, der stammer fra 1200-tallet, regulerer en række forhold specifikt relevante for bysamfund, er de så kortfattede, at de samtidigt efterlader en masse usagt. Der er ganske enkelt en række forhold, som man ville forvente reguleret i forhold til, at der er tale om den første regulering af specifikke forhold og institutioner i byerne, og at der med byerne er tale om en særlig social konstruktion med anderledes opgaver end dem, man møder i det omgivende samfund. Derfor efterlader købstadslovene også det indtryk, at der må have været en regulering af nogle grundlæggende elementer i retssystemet ved siden af, som synes at have været så almindeligt kendt og accepteret, at det ikke har været nødvendigt at nævne dem i de nye, specialiserede købstadslove. I oplægget argumenteres der således for, at købstadslovenes retssystem kun kan forstås, hvis det sættes i samspil med den procesret, som vi ser i de samtidige landskabslove, der regulerede retten i de landbosamfund, der omgav købstæderne, og det overvejes, hvad dette kan fortælle os om den retlige grænse mellem land og by.

Title: Konflikthåndtering ved mindre forseelser i norske middelalderbyer, c. 1200-1400

Abstract ID: 467

Miriam Jensen Tveit¹,

¹ *Nord University, Norway*

Hvordan ble de mer trivielle lovbruddene, som fyll, nasking, nabokrangler og anklager om brudd på handelsforskrifter, håndtert i byer der kongen opererte som byherre? Norske middelalderbyer var i prinsippet gjerne underlagt kongemaktens

utnevnte representanter, også i rettslige forhold. Bøter for alvorlige lovbrudd gikk til skattkammeret, mens bøter for mindre forseelser ble delt 2:1 mellom kongen og byens kasse. Kirkeorganisasjoner, bytinget, byrådet og den kongelige bylagmannen hadde dog alle domsmyndighet, mens sentrale landeiere i byene hadde også krav på en særlig status og eget stevne. Lovene indikerte ansvarsfordelingen og grænsen mellom disse instansene, men i praksis var det et utstrakt samarbeid om sakføringen, både innad i byene og mellom bytinget og tinglagene på landsbygdene. Det var imidlertid også konflikter rundt innsamling og fordeling av bøteinntekter og håndtering av saker som stevning, varetekt og vakthold. I paperet utforskes både konflikthåndteringen og konflikter rundt inntekter fra mindre saker i de norske byene i perioden 1200-1400.

Title: Paths of the Giants: Norwegian mountains as boundaries in the development of communities, ca. 900-1300.

Abstract ID: 334

Benjamin Allport¹,

¹ *University of Oslo, Norway*

Studies of political dynamics in Viking Age and medieval Norway have strongly emphasized the importance of sea routes in the exercise of power and formation of communities. It is argued that control of sea routes and of coastal central places near the mouths of fjords and rivers granted control over regional networks of exchange heading into the interior. In this view, mountains are largely presented as impervious boundaries that formed the limit of these regional networks.

However, the surviving literary record for Viking and medieval Norway suggests that these dynamics were at least downplayed in contemporary perception. Routes over the mountains are alluded to in *Ohthere's Voyage* (ca. 900) and tenth-century skaldic verses, and are also given a central role in Norwegian unification narratives found in twelfth- and thirteenth-century historiography.

In this talk, I will reconsider the role played by mountains in Norwegian political dynamics between 900 and 1300, as they were understood by those whose perspectives have been preserved. I will supplement this discussion with archaeological evidence for the distribution of contemporary central places. I hypothesize that mountains should not be viewed as impervious barriers, but as permeable boundaries that could circumvent power exercised from the coast.

Session: S-04-09 - Opinion, ordning och offentlighet: Gränser mellan privat och offentligt i den europeiska upplysningens periferi

Date: 14-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Trykproduktion og urban (u)orden i 1700-tallets Altona

Abstract ID: 469

Jesper Jakobsen¹,

¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

Omkring midten af 1700-tallet fik Altona det dansk-norske monarkis næststørste koncentration af bogtrykkerier. Ved at producere instrukser, blanketter og forordninger til byens voksende bureaukrati bidrog trykkerierne til opretholdelsen af urban orden. Myndighederne anerkendte på den ene side den voksende trykproduktions økonomiske potentiale, men betragtede samtidig udviklingen som en latent udfordring mod ro og orden. Derfor udsendtes i 1738 en forhåndscensurforordning, og fra 1754 skulle byens nyoprettede politimyndighed føre løbende tilsyn med såkaldt skadelige skrifter. Århundredet ud anvendtes en bred vifte af strategier, der søgte at balancere sikkerhed og markedshensyn, og selv efter trykkefrihedsperioden (1770-73) blev byens adresseavis pålagt forhåndscensur. Præsentationen vil dels diskutere tryksagers forskellige funktioner på grænserne mellem social orden og uorden, dels hvordan erfaringer med kontroversielle skrifter gensidigt påvirkede regulering af trykte skrifter i såvel Altona som i det øvrige rige.

Title: Maktens papirarbeid: Logistiske medier og grenser for sikkerhet og kontroll i København, 1770-1810

Abstract ID: 470

Magne Klasson¹,

¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

Bymyndighetenes administrative innsats for å etablere og opprettholde orden og sikkerhet i urbane rom har med tiden blitt vel utforsket for det tidligmoderne Europa. Én hittil underkjent faktor i disse administrative innsatsene er papirarbeidet. Med

København i perioden mellom 1770 og 1810 som case vil denne presentasjonen analysere deler av dette papirarbeidet – passkontroll, protokollføring og utstedelsen av attester og salgstillatelser – som «logistiske medier». Slike medier er grunnleggende sett orienteringsverktøy med konsekvenser for politisk praksis, ettersom de etablerer betingelsene alle må operere med utgangspunkt i. Presentasjonen vil vise hvordan slike papirbaserte, logistiske medier bidro til å tegne tydelige grenser mellom orden og uorden, legitimt og illegitimt – med store konsekvenser for de urbane rom.

Title: Folkets röst: Tryckfrihetsförordningen och den nya offentligheten 1766–1772

Abstract ID: 471

Jonas Nordin¹,

¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

Den svenska tryckfrihetsförordningen 1766 avskaffade förhandscensuren och stärkte boktryckarnas lagskydd. Mer anmärkningsvärd var dock den samtidigt införda offentlighetsprincipen, som gav medborgarna rätt att ta del av och publicera protokoll och handlingar från domstolar, myndigheter och politiska organ ända upp till riksrådet. En samtidigt införd förordning sade att grundlagsändringar bara fick ske efter två på varandra följande riksdagar med mellanliggande riksdagsval. Dessa reformer var kraftfulla erkännanden av valmanskårens och allmänhetens rätt att utöva inflytande på rikspolitiken. Den offentliga insynen skulle dessutom utövas med retroaktiv verkan, och regeringsutövningen, som tidigare betraktats som en statshemlighet behövde nu ta hänsyn till allmänhetens granskning – opinionen – som en politisk faktor. Denna radikala förändring av de politiska förutsättningarna genomfördes överraskande smidigt. Den här presentationen kommer att behandla gränsen mellan privat och offentligt i kortare och längre perspektiv i svensk politik.

Session: S-04-10 - Human-animal relations in the 18th to 20th centuries. Part I.**Date: 14-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Gifts, pests, and beasts of burden: animals on the move at the Swedish consulate in Tangier, 1787–1822**Abstract ID: 581**Emil Kaukonen¹,¹ *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

Animals played a central role in the diplomatic culture between Muslim and Christian rulers, primarily as gifts that the former sent to the latter. Animals were also ever-present at the Swedish consulate in Tangier as mounts, garden pests, and carriers of disease. Gift horses from the Sultan of Morocco to the King of Sweden, locusts consuming the plants in the Swedish garden, and camels and mules carrying the Swedish consul and his entourage to the sultan's court all shaped everyday life and lived experience at the consulate. This paper traces the movements of various animals and the shifting relationships between animals and humans in this historical context, focusing both on the perceived boundary between wild and domestic animals and the porous boundaries between the enclosed consular space and the “wild” Moroccan space.

Title: Beastly diplomacy: Travelling animals and knowledge transfer in the early modern world**Abstract ID: 582**Joachim Östlund¹,¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

In diplomatic history, animals have often been treated as a curiosity. However, over the past several decades, a number of historians have begun to explore the role of animals in international history, asserting that animals play a significant role through their ontic status, their representation of states, their roles as diplomatic subjects, and as objects of diplomacy. This paper presents animals (dogs, lions, antelopes etc.) that traveled between Sweden and the Ottoman world; their movement within consular networks and along trade routes, the knowledge they carried, as well as the

different roles they played as diplomatic subjects and their changing symbolic meanings.

Title: Working Animals in Early Modern Sweden

Abstract ID: 583

Anton Runesson¹,

¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

In the presentation, I will uncover what notions of animal health that members of early modern Swedish households embraced, specifically with regards to horses and oxen. The ambition is thereby to discuss the premises which made interspecies collaboration for purposes of work possible. Departing from court cases making this topical, I will discuss a general concept of ill health for working animals, derived from the productive functions they performed within households. To this, I will show how ill health was understood in relation to these animals' individual points of reference for bodily capabilities. Following from this, I will, finally, argue that people working with and alongside working animals were responsive to these individual points of departure, and that this was a prerequisite for successful interspecies co-operation.

Title: Human-Animal relations in war and war preparations in the early Twentieth century

Abstract ID: 584

Martina Berggren¹,

¹ *Swedish Defence University, Sweden*

Sociological, gender, and veterinary research has highlighted the necessity of considering aspects such as class and gender when studying human-animal interactions. This, I argue, is equally important when considering human relationships with animals in the past. In my ongoing dissertation, I explore the roles and functions assigned to animals during times of war and war preparations by using the voluntary defense organization, the Swedish Red Star (later Blue), as a lens. Founded in 1917, SRS aimed to recruit and train middle-class women as veterinary assistants to care for horses, cattle and other animals in times of warfare. Using sources such as operational reports and annual reports, bylaws, war diaries, newspaper articles and military recruitment material, my research points to two significant findings. On the one hand, it becomes evident that the intersection of class and gender powerfully shaped the ways in which people encountered, treated, and expressed affection towards various animals. On the other hand, it also

becomes apparent how war and conflicts had the potential to change those interactions, thereby reflecting broader changes in social hierarchies in society.

Session: S-04-11 - Scandinavianism beyond Scandinavia's borders**Date: 14-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: The Parallel: Italian and Scandinavian Unification**Abstract ID: 382**Morten Nordhagen Ottosen¹,¹ *Krigsskolen, Forsvarets høyskole, Norway*

"After the events in Italy it seems as though much of what used to have little chance of becoming possible now may stand a better chance". Thus wrote one leading Danish politician excitedly to another in August 1859. The unification of Italy, and the means through which it was achieved, served not only as a model to contemporary proponents of Scandinavian unification, but also as a parallel case in the eyes of some of the architects of Italian unification, Camillo di Cavour chief among them. This paper explores transnational links and parallels between the movements of Scandinavian and Italian unification, making a case that they were interlinked and very much reflect the intersection between (pan)nationalism, Realpolitik, and high politics.

Title: "Scandinavianism and Scandinavians in an American perspective"**Abstract ID: 383**Ruth Hemstad¹,¹ *Nasjonalbiblioteket, Norway*

Scandinavianism as a culturally unifying idea travelled across the borders of the region, as did around 2,5 million Scandinavians, most of them heading for North America. Seen from a distance, the similarities between the Scandinavians – their mutual culture and kindred languages – became more apparent, both from an outside and inside perspective. During the 19th century, Scandinavian associations abroad, founded for and by Scandinavians in Europe, North America and around the world, thus became an established practice. This paper will explore the rise – and fall – of Scandinavian cooperation, associational practices and export of pan-national ideas among emigrants and expatriates in the USA, and how a Scandinavian-American identity emerged and was utilised and discussed, particularly in the late

19th and early 20th century America. National and anti-Scandinavian sentiments, particularly connected to the dissolution of the Norwegian-Swedish union in 1905, also soon travelled abroad and made pan-Scandinavian ideas and practices contested and opposed in many quarters.

Title: Bismarck, Prussian and political Scandinavianism

Abstract ID: 384

Rasmus Glenthøj¹,

¹ *Syddansk Universitet, Denmark*

Bismarck wanted to unite Scandinavia! It was not a fleeting thought. The idea was already part of Prussia's foreign policy during the Napoleonic Wars and the First Schleswig War from 1848 to 1851. It is evident in the policies of Prussian foreign ministers before Bismarck, and in Bismarck's own policies before, during, and after the War of 1864. The paper examines how political Scandinavianism tied into Prussian foreign policy, why Prussia was interested in a united Scandinavia and how far Prussia under Bismarck went in its attempts to achieve this goal. In this, the paper with touch upon the intersection between (pan)nationalism, realpolitik, geopolitics, and high politics.

Title: “A reminder of what we are not”: Scandinavianism in Iceland, from Grímur Thomsen to Gunnar Gunnarsson

Abstract ID: 385

Simon Halink¹,

¹ *Fryske Akademy, Netherlands*

To what extent is Iceland perceived as belonging to Scandinavia? Were Scandinavianism and Icelandic nationalism always considered two mutually exclusive currents, or was there room for ideological overlap? Departing from the problematic conceptual history of ‘Scandinavia’ and ‘Nordic Union’ in Iceland, this paper charts the development of Pan-Scandinavian tendencies in Icelandic thought from the writings of the excentric nineteenth-century poet and scholar Grímur Thomsen, to the controversial glorifications of Nordic unity in the works of the famous author Gunnar Gunnarsson in the twentieth century. What were their motivations for swimming against the current of their times and promoting an idea that, in the eyes of their compatriots, could not be reconciled with the ideals of Iceland’s national movement? This paper will pay special attention the role of ‘Old

Norse' (or 'Old Icelandic') literature in these debates, perceived either as 'Nordic' or 'Icelandic' cultural heritage, depending on the ideological perspective.

Title: “Peoples descended from the same great tribe as us”: On the Reception of Scandinavianism in the Low Countries

Abstract ID: 381

Tim Van Gerven¹,

¹ *Universitet i Tromsø, Norges arktiske universitet, Norway*

This presentation explores the reception of Scandinavianism in the Dutch and Flemish press from the 19th century to World War I. It reveals a growing interest for and awareness of the pan-Scandinavian movement alongside a general appreciation for Scandinavian culture, influencing the Dutch language's definition of “Scandinavia” and “Scandinavians”. Coverage was influenced by the movement's relevance, which was perceived as either a political unification effort or a cultural initiative. The significance of Scandinavian pan-national activism was noted for its parallels with Dutch-speaking regions, inspiring movements like Greater Netherlandism and Flemish and Frisian nationalism. This analysis contributes to understanding Scandinavianism's international reception and the role of pan-national identities in European nation-building, offering a comparative and transnational perspective on pan-nationalism.

Session: S-04-12 - Know your rights and the law: Legal education to ordinary and underprivileged people in Finland and Sweden, ca. 1850-1950

Date: 14-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30

Abstract(s):

Title: What does a worker need to know about the law? Legal information in early-20th-century Finnish workers' newspapers and calendars

Abstract ID: 386

Marianne Vasara-Aaltonen¹,

¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

This paper discusses the written guidance regarding legal questions that socialist newspapers and the Social Democratic Party gave to Finnish workers in the beginning of the 20th century. In Finland, the working class grew significantly from the late-19th century onwards, and with it, the labour movement became organised, soon also leading to political organisation, and voting rights in 1906. At the same time, workers faced new kinds of legal problems regarding e.g. wages, rent or workplace accidents. Promoting access to justice for workers and educating workers about the law were important issues to the labour movement and the newly-founded Social Democratic Party. Socialist newspapers wrote pieces regarding workers' legislation and the SDP included a legal guide, indexes and form templates in the workers' calendars they published in the 1910s. In this paper, I examine this material and analyse it in a historical and comparative context, highlighting its relevance in reaffirming the workers' position as full-fledged citizens.

Title: Helping evacuees: The Karelian League and its legal aid and legal guidebooks, 1940s-1950s

Abstract ID: 387

Katja Tikka¹,

¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

The Karelian League was established during the Second World War, in 1940, after the Finnish Winter War. Its purpose was to help the people who had to leave their homes in the eastern part of Finland after the area was occupied by the Soviet Union. Soon, the League had to deal with legal issues, which often were complex

and problematic, on a daily basis. The Karelian evacuees, over ten percent of the Finnish population, had to resettle to other parts of Finland. Moreover, their property, including homes and farms, which they had lost, had to be recompensed by the state. This required new legislation, which the Karelian League took part in drafting, as well as giving legal aid to Karelians. From the beginning, the League also compiled guidebooks on how to interpret the new legislation, and distributed these to the Karelians. This paper sheds light on these guidebooks: what kind of information did they include and what were seen as the most essential legal questions that the Karelian evacuees needed to be aware of. Moreover, these guides are set in the broader context of giving legal aid to evacuees.

Title: Women educating women: the first female lawyers in Sweden and their part in legal education to the public in the early 20th century

Abstract ID: 388

Elsa Trolle Önnerfors¹,

¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

In my paper, I will discuss the important role the first Swedish female lawyers played in educating the public (especially women) about their legal rights. There were many law reforms in the 1910s that affected women in particular: for example, universal and equal suffrage and new marriage and inheritance laws.

Many of the first female lawyers made great efforts as public educators. They travelled the country to give popular lectures on various legal issues. One of the most frequent speakers was Eva Andén (1886-1960), the first female member of the Bar Association in Sweden.

A large proportion of the first female lawyers worked as poor's advocates at the *Rättshjälpsanstalterna* (legal aid centers), which were established by a new law in 1919. Many of the cases handled at the legal aid centres concerned family law and tenancy law issues. A large proportion of women seeking legal help felt confident in speaking to a female lawyer.

Title: Legal guide literature in Finland 1850-1900

Abstract ID: 389

Tuomas Jussila¹,

¹ *University of Turku, Finland*

In the second half of the 19th century, the language of the Finnish justice and administration system changed from Swedish to Finnish. The process was essentially related to the nationalistic Fennoman movement, but it also served the practical needs of everyday life. A lot of the guide literature on law and administration was published in Finland during the language change. Publications of this kind consist of guidebooks, form template books, and dictionaries, and they were directed to non-professionals or laypeople who needed legal and administrative knowledge in their duties or daily tasks. These publications are relatively unknown parts of Finnish literature, although they were essential in spreading legal knowledge among the Finnish-speaking population. This paper will examine these literary works and their significance in Finnish legal history.

Session: S-04-13 - Labour Coercion, Mobility and Crossing Boundaries in the Early Modern Nordic World**Date: 14-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Forced to leave, coerced to stay? Servants' mobility in times of crises, Sweden and Finland in the 18th century**Abstract ID: 432**Carolina Uppenberg¹,¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

The early modern servant position was formed through, among other aspects, demands regarding mobility. Servant Acts obligated young people to move out of their parental homes and become servants but at the same time circumscribed people's possibility of moving in order to find work. On the other hand, the year long employment contract and mobility restrictions supposedly provided protection in bad times. There is no study investigating whether servants were taken care of by their masters in times of hardship. This study is part of a larger project, and will be conducted through analyses of court cases regarding conflicts over employment, eviction, run-away servants and care for servants who were ill or hurt, taking place before, during and after short-term local crises, such as harvest failures. The question is a simple one: what happened to servants in households experiencing hardship? Were they forced to leave, or coerced to stay?

Title: Gathering in the Nets: Sailors and their Labor Networks in Denmark-Norway**Abstract ID: 433**Karen Oslund¹,¹ *Towson University, United States*

This paper explores personal networks of labor among ordinary sailors in the Danish-Norwegian Empire in the long eighteenth century. While the shipboard networks of merchants and company traders and their careers have been researched, the personal connections of ordinary sailors have not received much attention. From the handful of sailor's journals which exist from this period, however, it is clear that sailors also formed and benefited from personal networks within which

they could barter or exchange labor or exchange useful information about conditions of labor and opportunities on board ships. In addition to their regular contracted labor shipboard, sailors also earned money by collecting natural specimens, trading goods with each other, or writing documents on another's behalf, among other tasks. Such labor could only be performed because of personal networks nurtured on board, and because the circumstances of the ships of men placed into each other's company for months long voyages between Copenhagen and the East or West Indies fostered the construction of social bonds which could outlast the voyages. This paper will present examples of sailors and their social networks and investigate the ways in which they used the social networks to promote their careers.

Title: How to find the help. Hiring agents in eighteenth-century Denmark-Norway.

Abstract ID: 434

Hanne Østhus¹,

¹ *Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway*

Working as a servant was a common profession for the young and unmarried in early-modern Denmark-Norway. In towns, there were people who were appointed by the city to assist potential servants in finding work. As such, this was a measure to ensure that a mobile group of workers, servants, would find positions fast if they did not manage this on their own. It was also as a way for the authorities to regulate the job market and make sure that young people did indeed take up employment as servants, which the state regarded as the preferable occupation for those without a farm or a profession. This paper examines these previously overlooked people; the hiring agents (*Fæstekone* or *Fæstemand*) in order to explore who they helped and with what.

Title: The life and crimes of Ísleifur seki (1787–1829): A microhistory of labour, mobility and criminality

Abstract ID: 435

Vilhelm Vilhelmsson¹,

¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

Ísleifur "seki" (the guilty) Jóhannesson was a notorious criminal in northern Iceland in the early nineteenth century. Following a lifelong career of evading labour coercion as well as sheep- and horse rustling, petty theft and assorted mischief – which included a stint in the prison workhouse in Reykjavík – he was finally arrested and

sentenced to life imprisonment in the rasphouse prison in Copenhagen, where he committed suicide in 1829. As he was described in contemporary discourse as the archetype of the malignant group of *lausamenn* (masterless men), a microhistorical analysis of the life and career of Ísleifur offers an opportunity to explore the boundaries between (resistance to) labour coercion, spatial mobility and criminality in a premodern rural society, as well as to contemplate questions of historical methodology and of human agency.

Session: S-04-14 - Is there a Nordic Way of Doing Microhistory?**Date: 14-08-2025 - 08:30 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: What takes place, when nothing happens? Microhistory as a Historical Phenomenon**Abstract ID: 725**Sigurður Gylfi Magnússon¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

I ask the fundamental question: “What takes place, when nothing happens?” In order to pursue this essential principle, the ideology must consist in investigating with great precision each and every fragment connected with the matter in hand for which there are sources, and in bringing up for consideration all possible means of interpretation that bear directly upon the material. The focus here is both on the idea of studying as thoroughly as possible the material directly relating to the subject – examining every detail exhaustively – and also striving to bring into the study as much material as possible that relates to the subject, from its immediate environment. This effort is likely to give historians a chance to understand the narration which the sources contain. Such efforts often open doors to unexpected connections and “voices” which may offer competing explanations of specific aspects of the study. This is what my paper will explore.

Title: Lovisa Ahlström’s Travels: Microhistory Across Borders**Abstract ID: 726**Rebecka Lennartsson¹,¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

Lovisa, Dorotea, Charlotta, Beata—figures in the Stockholm morality police’s peculiar portrait album. The project City Faces brings their narratives to light, revealing a history of movement between Nordic capitals. In uncovering their stories, I have drawn on Nordic microhistorical research. Does this research possess distinctive characteristics?

From Leif Eriksson's voyages through Christianization, the Black Death, the Kalmar Union, wars, alliances, migration, and modernity, a shared Nordic history emerges—reflected even at the individual level despite linguistic and cultural differences. Our source materials also share many similarities.

Microhistory enjoys broad readership in Sweden, yet public interest does not guarantee research funding. Skepticism and dismissal persist, as quantifiable studies presented in graphs still hold an advantage due to their perceived generalizability. Swedish microhistory is not easily identifiable as a distinct discipline. However, a promising development is research on cultural heritage materials, an area encouraged by funding bodies. This provides valuable opportunities to explore underexamined sources—objects, art, photographs, diaries, letters, and interviews—and to foster cross-border collaborations.

Title: The small, the great and the eternal history

Abstract ID: 727

Tyge Krogh¹,

¹ *Danish National Archives, Denmark*

It will take departure in the writing of my book 'The Great Nightmen Conspiracy. A Tale of the Eighteenth Century Dishonourable Underworld'. It was written in the wake of The new cultural history. I will discuss the position of microhistory in relation to the great history, which I define as the canon of commonly known events and interpretations of history, as well as in relation to the history of emotions, which is the domain of fiction, movies etc.

Session: S-05-01 - Nya projekt om det svenska totalförsvarets historia**Date: 14-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Välfärds- och ofärdsstaten: planeringen av det civila försvaret under det kalla kriget**Abstract ID: 358**Niklas Stenlås¹, Per Lundin²,¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*² *Chalmers tekniska högskola, Sweden*

Civilförsvaret är något av en blind fläck i den svenska 1900-talshistorien. Detta är märkligt med tanke på den enorma vikt som totalförsvaret tillmättes under det kalla kriget. Med tidigare oanvänt källmaterial avser vi att undersöka planeringen av civilförsvaret under perioden. Det är just den institutionella sidan av det civila försvaret vi helt saknar kunskap om. Det gäller lagar och regler, organisationer och arbetsfördelningen dem emellan samt vilka planer och uppgifter man räknade med att de olika delarna av civilförsvaret skulle utföra. Särskilt intressant är den dubbla roll som myndigheter och organisationer hade i freds- respektive krigstid. Vi menar att uppbyggnaden av det civila försvaret bäst kan förstås som en militarisering av civilsamhället – ett förberedande av hela nationen för det totala kriget – och att denna process speglade uppbyggnaden av välfärdsstaten under samma period.

Title: Chefskursen: totalförsvarsanda under kalla kriget**Abstract ID: 359**Eric Bergelin¹,¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

Det svenska totalförsvaret byggde på idén om att hela samhället skulle arbeta tillsammans i händelse av krig. I syfte att förbereda för detta samarbete inrättade överbefälhavaren under 1950-talet ett antal utbildningar. Den mest märkvärdiga av dessa var den så kallade "chefs kursen", som årligen samlade totalförsvarets högsta befattningshavare för en veckas internat vid Solbacka läroverk i Sörmland. Det gick inte att söka till chefs kursen. Ett råd under överbefälhavarens ledning selekterade de mest lämpade kandidaterna som ofta var statsråd, landshövdingar,

myndighetschefer eller generaler. Vid Solbacka gavs föredrag och krigsspel som syftade till att odla en gemensam bild av totalförsvaret. Kursledningen ville skapa en "totalförsvarsanda" och de sociala aktiviteterna på kvällstid ansågs lika viktiga som dagsprogrammet.

Denna presentation handlar om chefskursen. Kursen säger något om de praktiker och idéer som upprätthöll totalförsvaret. Det var en institution vars uttalade syfte var att bygga nätverk och samförstånd, men som är påfallande osynlig i forskningen om Sverige under kalla kriget.

Title: Svenska Blå Stjärnan och livsmedelsberedskap under 1900-talet

Abstract ID: 361

Martina Berggren¹,

¹ *Swedish Defence University, Sweden*

Svensk livsmedelsberedskap under kalla kriget har i huvudsak studerats utifrån politiska aktörers och centrala myndigheters perspektiv. Mindre utforskat är de försvarsfrivilligas involvering samt lantbruksdjurens roll i beredskapsplaneringen. Svenska Blå Stjärnan är den frivilliga försvarsorganisation som sedan första världskriget haft samhällets uppdrag att ta hand om djuren i tider av krig, kris och katastrofer. I min pågående avhandling om relationer mellan människor och djur inom totalförsvaret studeras SBS funktioner och uppgifter inom livsmedelsberedskapen. Ett viktigt resultat är att SBS redan vid bildandet år 1917 hade en inriktning mot lantbruk och matproduktion. För ändamålet bedrevs kurser för kvinnor i kreatursvård, lantbrukshållning och djurskötsel. Detta trots att organisationen primärt grundades för att ägna sig åt hästsjukvård inom armén. Efter andra världskriget fick SBS sin huvudinriktning inom livsmedelsberedskapen, då "Stjärnsystrar" utbildades för krigsplacering i lantbruket. Undersökningen bidrar genom sitt längre tidsperspektiv (1917–1990) till att belysa en ännu underutforskad del av livsmedelsberedskapen. Samtidigt kastas nytt ljus över kvinnors frivilliga försvarsarbete och dess betydelse för det svenska totalförsvarets uppbyggnad.

Session: S-05-02 - Transborder Fertilisation?: The Mental Landscape of Nordic Fascism

Date: 14-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00

Abstract(s):

Title: North and Nordicness in the Völkisch Movement: The Germ of Nordic Fascism

Abstract ID: 406

Nicola Karcher¹,

¹ Østfold University College, Norway

The North and the Nordic people played a crucial role as an ideal, an imagined past and a longed-for-future, in the German *völkisch* movement since the late 19th century. The proponents of such *Nordicness* tended to see the Nordic region as a *Thule Ultima*, an unspoiled, primeval periphery, particularly after the First World War and the subsequent political climate characterised by fear, desperation, and polarisation. From 1918, efforts to establish a transnational collaboration with likeminded activists in the Nordic countries increased, and journals with a focus on Nordicness flourished the far-right scene. This environment formed the germ of what developed into Nordic fascism. The paper will analyse how the North was perceived in journals with a particular Nordic agenda such as *Volk und Rasse* and *Nordische Stimmen* and will investigate how representatives from the Nordic countries who published in these journals presented the North, either in line with or contrast to their German proponents.

Title: Gendered Religion and Transnational Dynamics in Interwar Scandinavian National Socialism

Abstract ID: 407

Gustaf Forsell¹,

¹ Uppsala University, Sweden

This paper examines how Scandinavian national socialists' ideas of Christianity enhanced their conceptions of masculinity in the 1930s and how these processes were manifested, both nationally and transnationally. It does so by focusing on the three biggest national socialist political parties in interwar Scandinavia – *Danmarks Nationalsocialistiske Arbejderparti*, *Nasjonal Samling* in Norway, and

Nationalsocialistiska Arbetarepartiet in Sweden – and by considering these organisations as transnationally entangled with each other. By analysing the organisations' respective party magazines, pamphlets, and internal circulars, this paper emphasises the gendered dynamics of interwar Scandinavian national socialism, stresses the pivotal role of Christianity in their worldview, and explores its transnational features. Ultimately, this paper contributes new insights into how ideas of Christianity have enhanced, subsidised and been manifested in the transnational dynamics and gendered societal visions of Scandinavian national socialism.

Title: The Nordic Leadership Principle, "Nordicness," and the Idea of Nordic Fascism in the Lindholm Movement

Abstract ID: 408

Heléne Lööw¹,

¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

How can we understand the development of a particular Nordic fascism and the need to distinguish it from other forms? This paper will examine this aspect by studying the ideological journal, *National Socialism* of the so-called Lindholm movement, Sweden's most recognised national socialist organisation, gathered in the political party *Svensk socialistisk samling* (SSS) in the interwar years. In my paper, I will analyse how concepts such as "the Nordic leadership idea" and notions of a particular "Nordicness," an almost metaphysical one, were expressed in *National Socialism*. What did this Nordicness mean? Did *Lindholmarna* envisage a particular form of Nordic fascism, and if so, what distinguished it? And how were these ideas expressed in the party's propaganda? In this context, a specific analysis of street agitation will be presented.

Title: "Golden Youth": Formative Experiences within the First Generation of Nordic Fascists

Abstract ID: 409

Oula Silvennoinen^{1,2},

¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

² *Östfold University College, Norway*

This paper will analyse the formative experiences behind those Nordic activists who later came to identify themselves as fascists and argue that there are clearly identifiable patterns in their individual stories of radicalisation. I will discuss the central predictors of experiences of war, revolution, social strife, and conspiracist

antisemitism, and their relationship to later declared or openly attested fascist activism. The Nordic region remained a periphery in the First World War and the series of violent upheavals it gave rise to in continental Europe, but I shall argue that regional conflicts, such as the Finnish Civil War of 1918, while smaller in scale, were equally important and potent background experiences for radicalisation. Neither was the Nordic region an intellectual periphery, instead providing a lively milieu of transnational cultural influence and innovation, clearly identifiable also in the developmental histories of later Nordic fascist activists. I will conclude by discussing the nature of Nordic fascists movements in terms of their endo- and exogenous features.

Session: S-05-03 - Nordic climate histories – entangling the boundaries of climate and societyII**Date: 14-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Extreme weather, harvest failures and epidemics: the southern Swedish experience of the Laki eruption years, 1783–1785**Abstract ID: 565****Martin Skoglund**¹,¹ ***Stockholm University, Sweden***

In the mid-1780s, southernmost Sweden experienced one of the last great mortality events before the 19th century demographic transition. In some counties, mortality even surpassed the more well-known famine of the early 1770s. The crisis was triggered by one of the worst agricultural droughts of the last 300 years beginning in May of 1783. In June, the Laki eruption began, leading to the formation of a thick haze of aerosols and volcanic gases that was observed in several regions of western Europe during the summer. The subsequent winter was long and extremely cold, with generally cold conditions prevailing throughout 1784. The cold winter of 1783/1784 has been suggested to be at least partly linked to the eruption. The following winter was again long and very cold. This study considers the spatiotemporal patterns of the crisis using various demographic, economic, agricultural and climatic data and attempts to disentangle the various causes of the crisis, with a focus on environmental factors.

Title: Borders in motion: Volcanic hazards and their societal impact on medieval Iceland**Abstract ID: 564****Carina Damm**¹,¹ ***University of Silesia in Katowice, Katowice, Poland***

Nordic societies at the borders of Europe are particularly prone to climate variability and form excellent case studies to analyse past climate events and their impact on a global and regional scale. In the outermost North, in Iceland, it is particularly the risk of volcanic eruptions that raises questions after how premodern societies coped with

natural hazards this paper aims to answer. It furthermore assesses the consequences of eruptions in the form of climate and agrarian changes, as well as the redirection of trade against the backdrop of demographic fluctuations. Methodologically, my talk will be based on the analysis of the medieval Icelandic sagas, and be complemented with archaeological material as well as natural proxy data – particularly tephra data and stable isotopes – that can help establish a chronology of medieval borders in motion.

Title: Climate and society in 6th and 18th century Norway

Abstract ID: 563

Ingar Mørkestøl Gundersen ¹,

¹ ***Oslo, Norway***

What factors created social vulnerability to climate change in premodern agrarian societies? Situated far north at the margins of the agricultural zone, Norway is considered susceptible to even small climate variations. Both the 6th and 18th centuries are associated with climate extremes, harvest failure and important sociopolitical change, which in recent scholarship are increasingly understood as related. However, the sociopolitical trajectories of the two centuries are nonetheless very different. The 6th century in present-day Norway is often understood in terms of societal collapse and major depopulation, which stands in contrast to the crisis-ridden but nonetheless more gradual development of the 18th century. In this presentation, I will explore some of the socionatural variables that may have influenced these developments and discuss their relevance for our understanding of social vulnerability in premodern agrarian societies.

Title: Modelling climatic, environmental, and societal impacts during the Icelandic Active Period 700-1000 CE

Abstract ID: 562

Kirstin Krueger ¹,

¹ ***Oslo, Norway***

Existing global volcanic radiative forcing estimates depict the period 700-1000 CE as volcanically quiescent. However, this disagrees with proximal Icelandic geological records and Greenland ice-core records of volcanic sulfate, cryptotephra, sulfur isotope, and glaciochemical tracers. Here we study the effects of prolonged episodes of volcanic sulfur dioxide and halogen emissions, such as the Hrafnkatla episode in 751-763 CE and Eldgjá in the 10th century with the help of a complex Earth System

Model. Based on the revised volcanic forcing our model results reveal distinct climatic, environmental, and societal impacts in the Northern Hemisphere for major explosive phases lasting several years.

Session: S-05-04 - Identity Formation: Nation, Culture and Class**Date: 14-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Conduct books and the rise of bourgeois society in early 19th century Finland**Abstract ID: 342**Topi Artukka¹,¹ *University of Turku, Finland*

During the early 19th century, a vast amount of different conduct books and educational literature spread through Northern Europe, where they had an important role on defining the new type of bourgeois society. Many of them originated from France and Germany and got translated to Nordic languages, but some were written in Sweden and Finland. These books, often aimed for young adults, discussed the virtues of the rising bourgeoisie identity and presented idealised standards of manners and way of living.

In this paper, I study how these books emphasised and consolidated model citizenships in the early nineteenth century and what kind of virtues they were producing. I examine especially the Finnish adaptations and books, that spread during the century. Furthermore, I aim to contemplate methodological questions relating popularity of the conduct books in Finland.

Title: Maintaining social boundaries of the 19th century bourgeoisie**Abstract ID: 93**Riikka Isoaho-Nousiainen¹,¹ *University of Oulu, Finland*

This paper studies the practices that the well-off gentry employed to maintain the boundaries of their own social class in the long 19th century. What expressions did they use to perform their position vis-à-vis the rest of the community? The study focuses on the gentry of the city of Oulu in northern Finland, especially on the merchant bourgeoisie. As the study shows it was not only a question of financial resources that some families' lives took more favourable paths than others. The main source material consists of the egodocuments of several gentry women. The

analysis utilises Pierre Bourdieu's theory of social, cultural, and economic capital. This paper is part of a larger research project about the permanence of social status and its intergenerational continuity.

Title: Boundaries of Local in Motion: The Culture of Local Letters in Mid-1800s Finland

Abstract ID: 45

Heikki Kokko¹,

¹ *Tampere University, Finland*

The Finnish-language press evolved into the first nationwide modern media during the 1850s. Simultaneously, a pervasive “culture of local letters” emerged in Finland. This culture was characterized by tens of thousands of readers’ letters, written in the names of local communities, and published in the press. Remarkably, these letter writers effectively spoke on behalf of their entire local community, even without explicit assignments.^[1]

The culture of local letters transformed knowledge circulation within local communities, which primarily relied on self-subsistent economies and oral traditions. It challenged spatial boundaries by blurring the distinction between local and societal contexts. As a result, the notion of “local” expanded to encompass a “translocal” perspective—one that included new ideas related to nationhood and civil society.

[1] See Kokko, Heikki. “From Local to Translocal Experience: The Nationwide Culture of Letters to the Press in Mid-1800s Finland.” *Media History* 28, no. 2 (2022): 181–98. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13688804.2021.1961575>

Title: Walls of Glass: Photographic ateliers in a changing urban landscape

Abstract ID: 247

Ann-Sofie Forsmark¹,

¹ *Stockholm City Archives, Sweden*

Walls of Glass: Photographic ateliers in a changing urban landscape

In the 1860s, the boom of portrait photography started to change the cityscape of Stockholm. The following decades hundreds of dark attics transformed to glass-covered ateliers, preferably in areas of high social status. For the customers, photography provided a new way to visually manifest themselves in a gradually more mobile society. In my presentation, I will follow the development of the portrait image

trade during its first fifty years, thereby connecting the location of the ateliers to the changing social stratification of Stockholm. By examining building permit drawings and urban documentary photographs from the 1950s and 1960s, I also want to illuminate the complexity of the history of photography and the necessity of crossing institutional borders in search of relevant source material.

The study *Walls of Glass* is a part of the research project *City Faces*.

Session: S-05-05 - Holocaust: New Aspects and Memory**Date: 14-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: “Racial boundaries, interethnic relationships, and multiracial families: The role of intermarriages in Jewish survival during the Holocaust in Kharkiv, 1941-1943”**Abstract ID: 294**Galyna Kutsovska¹,¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

This paper researches the responses and survival strategies of ethnically mixed Jewish families during the Holocaust in Kharkiv oblast, Soviet Ukraine. As a multicultural borderland region with distinct sociocultural features, Kharkiv offers a unique context for understanding the genocide in a large area. The paper explores family cohesion and interactions across racial and cultural boundaries, decision-making processes influenced by political and practical factors, and events that shaped the survival strategies and experiences of Jewish mixed families. The study aims to identify the adaptive strategies, coping mechanisms, adopted roles, and behavioral and cultural patterns to avoid victimization, motivations, and actions to survive. Drawing on testimonies and oral history interviews, the paper illuminates the lived experiences of intermarried Jewish families and their responses to the Holocaust in Eastern Ukraine.

Title: An ethnologist and a historian walk into a museum...: Claiming Holocaust Heritage in a Swedish Local History Museum**Abstract ID: 120**Victoria Van Orden Martinez^{1,2}, **Britta Geschwind**,¹¹ *Lund University, Sweden*² *Linköpings universitet, Sweden*

Co-presented by Britta Geschwind and Victoria Van Orden Martínez

Our title may sound like the beginning of a joke. Still, it nicely sums up the interdisciplinary approach we are taking to study how a collection of artifacts smuggled out of Ravensbrück concentration camp by Polish women prisoners and brought by them to Sweden in the spring of 1945 has been utilized by *Kulturen*, a

local history museum in Lund, Sweden. Traversing disciplinary boundaries is, we feel, necessary when examining a collection that inherently traverses geographical borders and cultural and historical boundaries but has simultaneously been contained by them. In this presentation, we will discuss how we – an ethnologist and a historian, respectively – are collaborating to gain an understanding of how these artifacts of the Nazi atrocities on primarily Jewish and non-Jewish Polish women have been claimed (and unclaimed) as both a Holocaust collection and Swedish cultural heritage. Our collaboration is part of the Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet) project "Swedish Remembrance of the Holocaust - Museums, Politics, and Materiality," which deals with how the Holocaust is incorporated into Swedish museums and Swedish history with a focus on collecting and collections.

Title: Holocaust distortion in the Nordic countries: Evolution, expression, and impact

Abstract ID: 216

Dóra Pataricza¹,

¹ *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

The current paper aims to present the pervasive issue of Holocaust denial and distortion within the Nordic countries, shedding light on its historical roots and contemporary manifestations. Following the aftermath of World War II, the taboo surrounding the concepts of race and biological racism in Europe led to the emergence of Holocaust denial and distortion as central features of contemporary antisemitism. So-called "secondary antisemitism" by scholars, these phenomena, originally weaponized by National Socialists and post-war right-wing radicals, evolved into prominent elements of extreme right discourse.

In the presentation I will try to answer the question whether all forms of Holocaust distortion inherently constitute expressions of antisemitism. By exploring the shift from explicit to coded expressions of antisemitism, the paper investigates how Holocaust denial and distortion have delegitimized and stigmatized public expressions of antisemitism. It will present both coded and explicit manifestations of antisemitism post-1945, including its ties to traditional forms such as conspiracy narratives and tropes rooted in Christian and Islamic anti-Judaism. The analysis will extend to the mobilization of antisemitism in the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict, providing insights into the persistence and transformation of antisemitic sentiments over time.

Title: On the other side of the sea – Danish Jews in Swedish Exile 1943-45

Abstract ID: 163

Silvia Goldbaum Tarabini¹,

¹ *Rigsarkivet, Denmark*

In October 1943, the majority of Danish Jewry crossed the sea between Denmark and Sweden to avoid arrests during the *Judenaktion*. Whereas arrival in Sweden did mean safety from Nazi persecution, it did not mean liberty to settle and act freely.

Based on the vast archive of the Refugee Office along with personal accounts of the refugees, this paper analyses the limitations imposed on the Jewish refugees and the role played by the Danish Refugee Office. The limits regarded everyday issues like where to live, where to work, and even the amount of Danish crowns one was allowed to exchange, etc. The Danish Refugee Office (under the Danish Legation in Stockholm) was on one hand part of imposing these restrictions; on the other hand, the office facilitated all sorts of everyday matters for the refugees, a work far beyond what the Legation usually took care of.

Session: S-05-06 - Boundaries in Sápmi. Countermeasures and confinements

Date: 14-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00

Abstract(s):

Title: The border of Sami territories: changing purposes and implications

Abstract ID: 607

Gudrun Norstedt¹,

¹ *Umeå university, Sweden*

Northern Sweden is divided by a border of an originally ethnic significance, the *lappmarksgräns* or the border of Sami territories. Although not clearly defined before the 18th century, it was known much earlier as the demarcation of a region where the population was supposed to be exclusively Sami.

From the 16th century onwards, Swedish authorities applied specific provisions above the *lappmarksgräns*, partly protecting the Sami and their lands, partly restricting their opportunities and freedom of movement. As Swedes and Finns moved into the area, provisions became more geographical than ethnical. In current Swedish legislation, the border is effective in provisions on reindeer husbandry and hunting.

In this paper, I will discuss how and why Swedish authorities have used the *lappmarksgräns* for changing purposes throughout history, and how this has affected the Sami population until today.

Title: The protective barrier. Paradoxes in Swedish settler colonial policies

Abstract ID: 608

Åsa Össbo¹,

¹ *Umeå university, Sweden*

The changing aims of authorities in issues of border demarcations, reveals the paradoxes in Swedish settler colonial policies. This presentation focusses on *odlingsgränsen* [the cultivation line] and how different actors discussed and negotiated this boundary during its temporary outlining in 1871 and the concluding process, following new rules more than a decade later. Despite the intention to safeguard lands for reindeer husbandry in the two northernmost counties, the border

did not secure the area from further settlements, industrial establishments such as mines, hydropower, and forestry. Instead, the border functioned both as a protective barrier and a divider within Sámi communities. Contemporary research deemed the reindeer herding Sámi to be 'dying natives' in alignment with other global settler colonial and racist discourses, and political protectionism both segregated reindeer herding nomadic Sámi and assimilated Sámi that had deserted herding or nomadic life.

Title: The Pathfinder legend in the South Saami borderland

Abstract ID: 269

Leiv Sem¹,

¹ *Nord University, Norway*

As Indigenous people of the borderland between Norway and Sweden, the South Saami have always navigated and negotiated an ambiguous and fluctuating economical, cultural and political landscape. This marginal status of flexibility and mediation has often been a resource for attaining income and independence. However, it may also be a liability in the eyes of the surrounding groups, especially in times of crisis where questions of identity are foregrounded, e.g. in times of war.

In these borderlands, an orally transmitted traditional legend has been documented in many variants since the 19th century. It tells of a man being forced to help a gang of invaders through the South Saami borderlands. By studying the similarities and differences between these variants, this paper discuss how this oral narrative tradition has been used as a tool to negotiate and communicate ideas, relations and positions of identity, loyalty and agency.

Title: Patrilinear perspectives of the colonisation of a northern Swedish region using genetic genealogy

Abstract ID: 154

Erling Gunfridsson¹, **Lotta Vikström**,¹

¹ *Umeå university, Sweden*

The colonization of Västerbotten, a region in northern Sweden, has remained a poorly understood from a long historical perspective. While written records became available from the 18th century onward through detailed parish registers, the earlier history of the region remains uncertain. In this study, we employed genetic testing as a tool to investigate the colonization process of Västerbotten.

One aim was to trace the progression of colonization, the demographics, migration patterns, and ancestry of the early inhabitants of Västerbotten. Specifically, examining the haplogroup patterns in the population provided insights into the paternal lines dominating the colonization process in the last two millennia.

Another aim was to, through the example of this study, highlight the power and utility of genetic genealogy as a tool for explaining complex historical demographic processes.

The results show that specific paternal lines have had a major impact on the genetic makeup of the population in Västerbotten. This serves as an example of how genetic analysis can enhance our comprehension of historical events, not only in this region but also in similar historical contexts worldwide.

Session: S-05-07 - The Medieval Swedish Parish Church and Its Books from the Twelfth to the Sixteenth Century**Date: 14-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: The Parish Church and the Ways of Book Provision in the Medieval Kingdom of Sweden**Abstract ID: 679**Jaakko Tahkokallio¹,¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

The liturgical manuscripts used in parish churches were undoubtedly the most common and ubiquitous books of the Middle Ages. Yet very little is known about them. How many books did parish churches usually own? Who made those books, and how often were they replaced? Since such books survive very poorly all over Europe, these questions have been hard to answer. For the medieval kingdom of Sweden, however, an exceptional collection of fragments survives, allowing us to study these phenomena. This presentation discusses, based on these fragments, different modalities of book production used to supply parish churches with books in the medieval Swedish realm.

Title: Fragment- och proveniensforskning som komplement till arkeologin. Medeltida liturgiska böcker i Mellannorrlands kyrkor**Abstract ID: 680**Emilia Henderson-Roche¹,¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

In recent decades, the lack of knowledge about the medieval period in the north of Sweden has begun to be addressed by increased archaeological research. However, the fragments of the medieval books of Sweden are a hitherto under-utilised source for information about how Norrland, more specifically Mellannorrland (the provinces of Ångermanland and Medelpad), related to the loci of royal and ecclesiastical power further south in the realm and how this relationship changed over time. Henderson-Roche will present results of new methods of provenance research on the medieval fragments to shed light on how the provision of books for Mellannorrland's churches changed throughout the medieval period.

Title: Tracing Scribal Communities: Liturgical Manuscript Fragments from Late Medieval Swedish Dioceses**Abstract ID: 681**Inka Timosaari¹,¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

By the fifteenth century, most of the seven dioceses in Sweden had developed their distinctive liturgical traditions. This is also reflected in the liturgical manuscript fragments that can be linked to different dioceses and cathedral cities. How book production and acquisition in these ecclesiastical centres of late medieval Sweden worked in practice is not entirely known, but can be elucidated upon by examining groups of fragments with similar palaeographic features, which in turn may provide clues to identifying scribal communities active in the respective locations. This paper will explore some of these groups in order to shed light on the dynamics of book production in late medieval dioceses and, by extension, the regional variations in liturgical practices.

Title: Medieval Books in Post-Reformation Sweden: A Gradual Descent into Obsolescence**Abstract ID: 682**Seppo Eskola¹,¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

In early modern Sweden, leaves of medieval manuscripts were commonly recycled as tax book covers by Crown officials. This process, largely driven by the Reformation, happened on a grand scale, and circa 30 000 manuscript fragments survive to this day. Most of them come from liturgical books of parish churches. With some success, scholars have used the traces left by the recycling process to tie the fragments to their medieval provenances, but the inner workings of the recycling phenomenon have received less attention. In this presentation, I discuss the fate of medieval books in the 16th century. Not all books were equal in the eyes of those who recycled them, and certain attributes, such as age and genre, affected when and how books were recycled. Studying this process can help us better understand the fragments and the progression of the Reformation.

Session: S-05-08 - Politics, Work and Culture in the Medieval Nordic Region and Beyond

Date: 14-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00

Abstract(s):

Title: Corporatist rule of medieval Stockholm

Abstract ID: 201

Sofia Gustafsson¹,

¹ *Linköping University, Sweden*

From the thirteenth century, most towns had a council, a ruling body consisting of respective burghers of the town. The councils are often visible in preserved sources and have been thoroughly studied concerning power, group identity and functions. However, throughout the Middle Ages, town administration was dependent on the communal responsibility of all burgher households. Letters and documents to and from the town was often addressed not only to/from the council of the town, but from the council and the community. This paper presents a study on the burgher community as a political and administrative actor in late medieval Stockholm. Main questions addressed in the study are: How common was a division between council and community in groups representing the whole town externally and within Stockholm? What kind of meetings/ work groups were burghers outside of the council chosen to attend? Were the same men chosen to represent the community in different groups, or were many burghers involved? Did the chosen burghers represent all four quarters of the town?

Title: Women's work in late medieval Swedish towns

Abstract ID: 89

Louise Jakobsson¹,

¹ *Karlstad University, Sweden*

Women have always worked. For urban medieval Sweden, however, our knowledge of the forms and areas of work remains limited. Finding information on work in the medieval period is challenging, since the household served as the primary unit of work where both productive and reproductive activities were performed. These activities were not always recorded; therefore, existing source materials must be investigated exhaustively. This paper presents my doctoral research which examines

women's work in late-medieval Swedish towns, focusing on the types of work performed, its characteristics, and the impact of marital and social status on work opportunities. The main sources used are town council records, including tax rolls, transaction accounts, and court records, which provide insights into occupational titles, paid work, and incidental information on work activities. Additional sources such as Swedish town law, local regulations, and guild statutes, offer information on work regulation.

Title: Out of the shadows. Friendship between women and men in Old Norse society

Abstract ID: 318

Auður Magnúsdóttir¹,

¹ *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

Vänskapens betydelse i medeltidens politik är oomtvistad och väl kartlagd. Men huvudlinjerna i tidigare forskning är tämligen konforma. Vänskap var en rationell och pragmatisk relation, den var förbehållen män av hög social status och utgjorde ett av flera sätt att knyta till sig allierade. Förbindelsen omgärdades dessutom av vissa ritualer, den innebar ömsesidiga plikter och lojalitet, och bekräftades genom gåvoutbyte och fester. Den pragmatiska vänskapen var starkt knuten till politik och maktkamp – ett område till vilket kvinnor hade begränsad tillgång. Trots att bilden av vänskap som manligt privilegium har ifrågasatts har kritiken inte satt nämnvärda spår i forskning om det medeltida Norden. Fokus har fortsatt riktats mot de relationer de medeltida författarna valde att beteckna i termer att vänskap, ett vittnesbörd starkt präglat av den samtida patriarkala ideologin om vänskap och könsroller. I min föreläsning vill jag omvärdera den traditionella bilden av vänskap som förbehållen män och därigenom också ompröva den bild vi har av kvinnors handlingsutrymme och agens i det medeltida Nordens politiska kultur.

Title: The Domestication of the Holy Man: Sacralization and Estrangement of St Adalbert in Poland in Comparison with Scandinavia

Abstract ID: 4

Wojtek Jezierski¹,

¹ *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

During the post-1000CE expansion of the *Christianitas* a new human species was introduced to the cultural and political habitats of the northeastern European peripheries: the holy man. Both in life and in death saints were agents of sacral and

often also ethnic otherness. Holy men can thus be seen as an invasive species of sorts, whose introduction was deeply transformative, particularly if they rose to the rank of leaders as holy kings or bishops. In order to be integrated into the ecclesiastical structures and local dynasties this profound exogenous force had to be tamed and domesticated. This paper presents the domestication of the cult of Bishop St Adalbert of Prague (956-997) in high-medieval Poland considered in comparison with Scandinavia. It discusses what hagiography teaches us about the perceptions of the autochthonous and allochthonous origins of elites in the Middle Ages and about sacral and ethnic alterity of power in general.

Session: S-05-10 - Human-animal relations in the 18th to 20th centuries. Part II.**Date: 14-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Animal Town: Interspecies Relations and Spatial Interactions in Gothenburg During the Long 19th Century**Abstract ID: 585**Martina Hjertman¹,¹ *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

While cattle, pets, and pests are well-documented features of medieval towns, the presence and significance of animals in early modern and modern urban settings have received less research attention. This presentation explores how urban environments influence interspecies relationships and interactions, using Gothenburg as a case study and spatial framework. It illustrates how living and sharing spaces in the city impacts relationships, perceptions, and practical solutions in everyday life. Drawing on newspaper sources, the presentation examines how urbanization and town renewal in the long 19th century affected cohabitation and spatial utilization, also highlighting how society viewed and managed animals considered stray or out of place. Particular focus is given to poultry, but other species categorized in various ways are also discussed.

Title: The relationship between humans and marine animals in the artefact collections of a maritime museum**Abstract ID: 586**Sari Mäenpää¹,¹ *Forum Marinum, Finland*

Marine animals that have interacted with humans are a part of maritime history. Many historical studies on marine animals and their relationships with humans have been published. As environmental awareness increases, maritime museums have felt a need to re-examine and re-interpret their collections to take into account the changing relationship between humans and the sea. What kinds of animal-related materials can be found in maritime museum collections, how did they end up in the museum collections, and how have they been described and catalogued?

Our paper combines research on the relationship between humans and nonhuman animals in the context of both maritime history and material culture. We focus on over 70 animal-derived and animal-inspired objects from the collections of Forum Marinum, the maritime museum responsible for preserving the maritime cultural heritage in Finland. We consider the practices of recording and documenting the objects and what they tell us about the interaction between humans and nonhuman animals and the changing relationship between humans and nature. Objects related to albatrosses and sharks are most closely examined.

The animal-related objects in the Forum Marinum collections can be divided into four groups. One group includes stuffed animals, complete animals and animal parts. The second group consists of objects made from animal-derived materials and intended as utility objects. The third type of objects comprises decorative objects made of animal-derived materials. The fourth clearly identifiable group is made up of objects that make use of animal imagery or symbolize animals and which centre on variations of the albatross motif.

Shark-derived objects are related to the leisure activities of sailors, such as catching sharks and using them as sources of raw materials for handicrafts. Most of the animal objects in the Forum Marinum collections date back to the 1920s and 1930s, which marked the end of the sailing ship era in Finland. Most of the objects were brought to Finland from regions beyond the Baltic Sea. These animal objects belong to the sailors' craft tradition and souvenir culture but also tell a broader story about the relationship between sailors and animals and nature.

Title: Why a course in historical animal studies, from the Middle Ages to the present?

Abstract ID: 588

Maria Sjöberg¹, **Martina Hjertman**,¹

¹ *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

When studying human relationships with animals in the past, the starting point is often that animals of all kinds have been gradually forced into submission. Animals were and are people's food and clothing and used for scientific experiments. Concurrently, there is a long tradition of honouring and understanding the animal world on its own terms. Whatever the approach, in studying man's relationship with society, there is a risk of overlooking the fact that society has always been populated by animals - and that the role of animals has been essential, not only for subsistence but also for the organisation of social life. Gender as well as class aspects have played a role. Through an exploratory course focusing on various historical sources,

we want to clarify historical change and generate further research. This contribution presents the laboratory and investigative approach of the course.

Session: S-05-11 - Setting and Crossing Boundaries between Healing Systems in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Finland

Date: 14-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00

Abstract(s):

Title: Intersections of Vernacular and Professional Healthcare in Rural Swedish-Speaking Finland

Abstract ID: 506

Karolina Kouvola¹,

¹ *University of Oulu, Finland*

This paper discusses boundaries in vernacular healthcare within the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland during the long nineteenth century. During this period, new innovations in medical care and diagnosis were reaching rural communities. Conflicts arose as the new ideas of health authorities and healing practices encountered vernacular understandings of illness and diagnosis. Using prosopographical methods, this research analyzes the backgrounds and networks of healthcare providers in the medical marketplace of the Swedish-speaking rural communities, focusing on the borders and their crossings between trained health authorities and vernacular healers. These healthcare providers had diverse backgrounds in medical training, vernacular worldviews, and clerical traditions. This analysis provides new insights into the complexities of boundaries in healing practices within a rural yet an international setting.

Title: Naturalness as a Demarcation between Alternative Healing and Medicine in Finland from the Early Twentieth Century to the 1970s

Abstract ID: 507

Suvi Rytty¹,

¹ *University of Turku, Finland*

In an era marked by climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution, people are increasingly seeking health and well-being from a natural lifestyle. The idea of a natural lifestyle as a source of health is not new but was already central to the alternative healing movements that developed in the nineteenth century, such as natural healing. It has therefore always included controversial elements from a

medical point of view, such as the opposing of medicines and vaccinations as unnatural therapies. In this presentation, I examine how the Finnish supporters of natural healing and lifestyle used the concept of naturalness to criticize Western medicine and to justify their alternative healing philosophy since the early twentieth century. The time frame extends to the 1970s, which also enables analysis of how developments in medical therapies as well as the awakening to environmental pollution, which called into question the idea of nature as a source of health, challenged this demarcation. The source material consists of Finnish journals promoting natural healing and lifestyle.

Title: At the Fountain of Life – “Life Reform” in Finland in Early Twentieth Century

Abstract ID: 508

Mikko Kemppainen¹,

¹ *Tampere University, Finland*

This paper explores boundaries and entanglement of religious ideas medicine within the so called Life Reform (Ger. *Lebensreform*) which was a vast movement in all western countries in early twentieth Century. In the core of the life reform movement was modern scientific medicine combined with naturopathical treatments such as health baths, herbal and water treatments, and special diets. Furthermore, it was inspired by the idea, adopted from revivalists and other modern religious movements like Theosophy, which promoted personal religious experience and direct relationship with God. The focus of my paper is Runni (Swe. *brunn* = a well/spring) spa which was established in East-Finland around a spring discovered in the late eighteenth Century. Water of the spring was believed to have divine healing and miraculous vitalizing powers. The actual “Runni-boom” rose in early twentieth Century when physicians, pharmacists, traditional healers, and religious groups, such as Theosophists, all around Finland were interested in the spa’s health water.

Session: S-05-12 - Arv i Norden**Date: 14-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: De arveadministrative arkivalier – et kildemateriale med et stort potentiale**Abstract ID: 684**Pernille Ulla Knudsen¹,¹ *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

Siden middelalderen har staten reguleret arv. Formuefordelingen af ejendomsgoder og beskyttelsen af arvinger er et af de områder, der længst har været en statslig opgave. Den statslige arveadministration har efterladt et hav af arkivalier, der idag kan bidrage til at belyse krydsfeltet mellem stat, familie og individ. Alt efter perspektivet åbner disse homogene og mange hundrede år gamle kildeserier mulighed for uendelige muligheder for at belyse centrale dele af det enkelte menneskes liv og samfundsudviklingen generelt.

I dette foredrag sættes der fokus på de arveadministrative arkivserier potentiale som kildemateriale og hvilke metodiske udfordringer, der kan være på spil i et retshistorisk perspektiv. Undervejs tages der udgangspunkt i et dybdestudie af et eksekutionsbo, hvor vi bliver inviteret ind i den københavnske elites private gemakker og både kan aflæse frihedsgraderne i et kvindeliv og tidens storpolitiske begivenheder.

Title: Frihet för föräldrar eller rättvisa för barn? Testamenteslagstiftning i Skandinavien ca 1810-1860**Abstract ID: 685**Martin Dackling¹,¹ *Lunds universitet, Sweden*

En viktig förändring i den europeiska arvslagstiftningen efter 1800 har varit övergången till lika arvsrätt mellan söner och döttrar. När denna idé 1804 infördes i *Code civil* och spreds vidare över den europeiska kontinenten förändrades styrkeförhållandena inom familjen i grunden. Införandet av lika arvsrätt innebar

emellertid även att frågan om arvlåtarens frihet aktualiserades. Visst fanns de som önskade fördela sin kvarlåtenskap lika mellan barnen, men andra ville påverka hur arvet delades. Sambandet mellan testamenten och jämlikhetsprinciper blir i detta sammanhang tydliga. Erkändes möjligheten att genom ett testamente fritt förfoga över egendom fanns en påtaglig risk att den lika arvsrätten betydelse reducerades.

Följdaktligen ackompanjerades övergången till lika arvsrätt av en debatt om villkoren för testamenten. I exempelvis Frankrike och Tyskland ledde detta till en inskränkt testamentesrätt för att säkerställa större jämlikhet inom familjens ramar. I de skandinaviska länderna fick dock denna debatt en annan följd. Istället för starkare restriktioner *utvidgades* testamentsfriheten i samtliga tre länder i nära anslutning till att lika arv infördes. Mot bakgrund av att de skandinaviska länderna idag ofta anses präglade av en långtgående jämlikhet framstår dessa förhållanden som motsägelsefulla. Varför utökades testamentsrätten? Syftet med detta paper är att med utgångspunkt i den politiska debatten försöka besvara denna fråga.

Title: Emotional boundaries in inheritance disputes of the Swedish nobility

Abstract ID: 198

Jonas Thorup Thomsen¹,

¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

In eighteenth-century Sweden, will-making was a private practice until the moment a wronged party complained at the courts. The law set certain boundaries for what a testator could decide about their property, but these limits were not set in stone and were instead quite dynamic. The wills of nobles show that landowners actively negotiated their space of action by using the law to their advantage. They also show that boundaries of the family and emotional obligations to kin were changing in the early modern period, with distant relatives often being described as a threat to the nuclear family. In some cases, relatives complained to the courts that will-makers had crossed certain moral and legal boundaries. In this paper I will use the resulting inheritance disputes to reveal how the emotional obligation of the family and the limits of inheritance law were negotiated and challenged in the eighteenth century.

Session: S-05-13 - City Limits: The Role of Borders and Boundaries in Urban History**Date: 14-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: On the other side of the paling: Cultural-historical consideration of the ephemeral boundaries of the city**Abstract ID: 570**Rebecka Lennartsson¹,¹ *Stockholm City Museum, Sweden*

If you wander through the late 19th century city with the help of photographs, you become aware of the palings (high wooden fences) that characterized the cityscape. Palings have influenced the movements of the city, fenced in and closed out, created separate rooms, anxiety and security and desire to discover the other side. They have also been used for advertising, communication and graffiti. Despite its mark on the city's everyday life, the paling belongs to the perishable materiality that has never been saved in museums and is not visible on maps.

How to tell its story?

Materiality must be connected with lived experiences. Only when a border is loaded with memories and connotations does it gain meaning. In this presentation, the paling is considered as an urban material cultural heritage and a significant symbol of the limits and dualism of modernity. What does it look like from the other side?

Title: The Great Wall of Lund: Divisions Between Labourers and Students in An Old University Town**Abstract ID: 571**Peter K. Andersson¹,¹ *Kulturen, Lund, Sweden*

In the spring of 1837, someone threw a rock through the window of archbishop Faxe's residence in the town of Lund, Sweden. It was the starting point of an uprising among the students of the university town sparked by the decision to tear down the wall that encircled the university area. An event that sums up the mental and social divisions in this university town between students and the rest of the town's

inhabitants, it provides an entrypoint into the long-term conflict between students and labourers that permeated life in Lund during primarily the 19th century, but which sent repercussions throughout the 20th.

This presentation considers the conflict between workers and students in Lund as a case study of social and cultural divisions in industrial towns. By looking at the very tangible physical borders in 19th-century Lund, it is possible to reflect on how the presence of a learned community within a small town relates to the social community of the town's workers.

Title: Malmö – Crossroads at the Border 1850-2015

Abstract ID: 573

Per-Markku Ristilammi¹, Pål Brunnström¹

¹ *Malmö universitet, Sweden*

Situated on the transnational border (since 1658) between Sweden and Denmark the city of Malmö has been, and still is, at the crossroads of the circulation of people and goods in Northern Europe. This means that Malmö has been a hub for introducing new technologies and ideas from the rest of the world, and also people. Migratory movements from and to Sweden has passed through Malmö – labour migrants, refugees, emigrants on their way to the USA and tourists have all passed the narrow strait of Öresund, especially during the eras when flying was less common. With the completion of the Öresund bridge in 2000 travel between the nation-states became easier. A new Europe of the border regions would emerge, and the bridge was predicted to being a growth engine for an entire new border region. The refugee crisis in 2015, the introduction of border controls at the bridge shows the complexities of being at one of Europe's crossroads. This article investigates these migratory patterns and how the Swedish state and local authorities have understood and acted on these.

Title: Cities without borders

Abstract ID: 574

Heiko Droste¹,

¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

The idea of a clearly delineated urban space has long since ceased to convince. The urban economy and lifestyle affects its supposed opposite, the rural areas. Rurbanity

has been discussed, even as a term, since early 20th century. It denotes a blend of the urban and the rural.

This rurbanity is rather typical for Northern Europe, as municipal reforms in all countries effectively diminished or simply wiped out any distinction between the urban and the rural. However, despite this lack of clear borders, notions of the urban as distinctly different from the countryside persist and resist any change in our perception of the cities. Administrative borders might have disappeared, peripheries exist, as does our habit to think in opposite terms of urban density and rural backwardness.

Session: S-05-14 - Is there a Nordic Way of Doing Microhistory? II**Date: 14-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Microhistory on Early Modern Swedish source material. A question about the question**Abstract ID: 728**Annika Sandén¹,¹ *Stockholm City Museum, Sweden*

If the Italian micro-historians look for the large picture in the small scaled and exceptional cases, in order to trace hidden structures of society, the German micro-historians focus rather on the everyday life of ordinary people, in order to understand how people adapt and influence historical processes. Within the framework of the Italian tradition, the individual is able to say something about the whole society. Within the German, on the other hand, the individual is seen as unable to represent the great.

The question then is whether there is a Nordic way of practicing microhistory. In this session, I will point out the unique magnitude of early modern source material in Sweden, emanating from emergence of the central state power in the 17th century. This generated material from the judiciary, church and state administration. These multitude of source material conducts for a specific Northern way of microhistory – and an Italian- and a German-influenced micro-history too. During this session, I will emphasize the central importance of the scientific question for microhistorical research, and argue that this is more likely to depend on historical trends and questions, rather than the presence of source material or geographical location.

Title: Feminist Microhistory as a Nordic way of Microhistory**Abstract ID: 729**Pilvikki Lantela¹,¹ *University of Lapland, Finland*

I present a feminist reading of microhistory the focus of which is on microhistory as a critical knowledge production. Read through the Feminist Standpoint Theory, microhistory is a standpoint to expose the experiences and views of those from the

margins of history. Due to the structural barriers related to the sexual division of labour in the 1970s and 1980s, Standpoint feminism initially challenged men's experience as the taken-for-granted universal premise and focused on women's experiences. However, today the focus is not on the experiences of one sex, but rather on the knowledge produced from hierarchical peripheries. What these peripheries are is an open, contextual question, that microhistorians should be able to answer. The potential of such knowledge lies in its epistemic privilege – people who have lived without political-economic privilege are more likely to understand social reality in ways which can refine our historical understanding, and challenge taken-for-granted concepts, historical ideas and theories. Second, finding such knowledge can mean critically addressing broader mechanisms of knowledge production, as in Halgrímsdóttir's wonderful microhistory: *Tale of a Fool? A Microhistory of an 18th-Century Peasant Woman* (2019). Feminist ideas are well grounded in Nordic soil, would this be one of the strands defining Nordic microhistory?

Session: S-06-01 - Gender, the State, and National Preparedness for War (20th Century Northern Europe)**Date: 14-08-2025 - 14:00 - 16:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: To create a national “folkberedskap” (public preparedness): public education, home and nation in Sweden 1939-1945**Abstract ID: 350**Johanna Overud¹,¹ *Umeå university, Sweden*

This paper analyzes the formation of a “folkberedskap” (public preparedness) in Sweden during the Second World War. This work was concentrated primarily within the State Information Board, SIS (1939–1945) where there was a branch around “folkberedskap” that dealt with strengthening of the nation’s “inner front”. The work around “folkberedskap” was part of a predominant context of ideas on public education, nation and democracy. By studying SIS materials within a wide range of public information, media materials and brochures, the aim is to capture objectives on home and tasks, and to draw on ideas on gender and nation. At a time when the value of “folkbildning” is being questioned, it is important to be able to make connections between problem descriptions over time. What crisis are we preparing for and who should be prepared?

Title: Imposed Voluntarism: Camouflaging Coercion Inherent in 20th Century Nordic Women’s National Preparedness Efforts**Abstract ID: 351**Fia Cottrell-Sundevall¹,¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

This paper furthers a discussion I began with a paper at the ESSHC in Leiden 2025 on the concept and practices of voluntarism in gender and labour history. It examines the paradox of women’s “voluntary” war service in Nordic countries throughout the 20th century. While labelled voluntary, these roles masked coercive pressures shaped by national security imperatives, gender norms, societal expectations, and institutional structures. Employing Marcel van der Linden’s coercion framework, the study critically analyses recruitment strategies, contract-bound labour obligations,

and restrictive exit policies. By conceptualizing these practices as "imposed voluntarism", the paper challenges traditional binaries of voluntary versus compulsory labour, highlighting gender dynamics underlying Nordic national preparedness policies.

Title: Women and the draft: a comparative study of the history of women and selective service in the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark

Abstract ID: 352

Kim Bootsma¹,

¹ *Netherlands Defence Academy, Faculty of Military Sciences, Netherlands*

Although more research has been conducted in recent decades on the integration of women in military organizations, that research is almost always national in nature. International comparisons are hardly made, even though this can contribute to a better understanding of the relationship between gender, military institutions and warfare. This paper examines the integration of women in three different armed forces – the Dutch, Swedish and Danish – with a special focus on discussions about conscription for women. In all three of these countries, the introduction of compulsory military service for women was considered in the 1970s and 1980s, but nowhere was it actually introduced. What arguments were used in these countries to argue for or against the introduction of compulsory military service for women? How did these arguments differ? And what do these differences say about the relationship between gender, citizenship and warfare in each specific national context?

Session: S-06-02 - Crossing international borders: Business strategies, government policies and international collaboration to accessing strategic resources in the first half of 20th century.

Date: 14-08-2025 - 14:00 - 16:00

Abstract(s):

Title: Control of strategic chemicals, European cartels and the Nordic countries

Abstract ID: 491

Susanna Fellman¹, **Martin Shanahan**,²

¹ *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

² *University of South Australia, Australia*

The chemical industry developed fast in the early 20th century. Many of these products were strategically important, such as nitrogen both in the explosive industries and as fertilizer or tungsten for the steel industry. The chemical industry was often organized into international cartels, in which a few big multinationals dominated. This affected the work of the cartels, as did the tensions between allied countries and Germany also after the end of the WWI. The chemical cartels worked in the intersection between private and government interests. In this paper we will investigate strategies of both governments for safeguarding the supply of some key chemicals and the big multinationals and the big cartels in controlling the cartels and the market. A special focus will also be on how this economically and geopolitically significant industries affected the government policies and the industries in the small Nordic countries.

Title: Building Materials – Strategic Materials and Strategic Collaborations

Abstract ID: 492

Malin Dahlström^{1, 2},

¹ *University of Jonkoping,*

² *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

The construction sector played a crucial role in the development of modern states during the 20th century. As industrialization swept across the world, many new cities

and communities were constructed, and new amenities were developed and demanded.

Some building materials, such as cement and screws, had been imported and exported globally since the 19th century, while others were regionally produced, such as wood products. From the 1930s to the 1960s, new products and materials were developed. In this paper, we will examine some of these new materials and the collaborations surrounding them. The building material industry in the Nordic countries often collaborated with other Nordic countries. An initial review of the archives indicates that the forms of collaboration varied depending on the material. The proposed question is: With whom and how did the Nordic building material producers collaborate regarding new materials?

Title: The rise and fall of cartels in the fish export industry in Iceland

Abstract ID: 493

Gudmundur Jonsson¹,

¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

The fisheries sector has been central to the transformation of Iceland into a technologically advanced, high-growth economy during the 20th century. Important aspect of this transformation was a radical restructuring of the fish export trade during the Great Depression, aiming at limiting domestic competition and strengthening the sales organisations' market power abroad. The change was characterised by increasing regulation and vigorous cartelization within all the main sectors of the fisheries, in saltfish, herring and frozen fish production.

The paper explores the origins of the big shift from small size exporting firms to only handful of big sales organisations with monopoly or near monopoly of exports within their respective sub-sectors. We look at the causes and dynamics of change both within the fisheries sector itself and government policies towards it. We briefly examine the fate of the main sales organisations in the postwar period and how they fared when the forces of globalisation and the neoliberal turn in government economic policy after 1980 started to make inroads and seriously undermine their operations.

Title: Strategic raw materials and government policies: the case of the Nordic countries and oil in the interwar years

Abstract ID: 494

Espen Storli¹, **Pål Thonstad Sandvik**,²

¹ *Norwegian University of Science and Technology NTNU, Norway*

² *Norwegian University of Science and TEchnology NTNU, Norway*

World War I transformed oil from an important commodity into an essential strategic resource. The new status of oil was not lost on the Nordic countries, and they all experienced shortages and supply insecurity during the war years. The role of the state in regulating both oil markets and supply chains therefore changed significantly during and after the war. The aim of this paper is to examine the development of government policies on oil in the five Nordic countries in the interwar years. How and why did they respond differently to a common strategic and economic challenge?

Session: S-06-03 - Conflicts in early modern urban contexts**Date: 14-08-2025 - 14:00 - 16:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Consular boundaries: the Swedish consulate and garden in Tangier, 1787–1822**Abstract ID: 437**Emil Kaukonen¹,¹ *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

Until the mid-19th century, European and American diplomatic presence in Morocco was concentrated in Tangier, where the residences of the various consuls formed a kind of consular neighborhood. In addition to a consular house, the Swedish presence also consisted of a garden outside the city gates, which the consuls used for meetings and as a place of leisure. However, legal disputes, diplomatic maneuvering and interpersonal conflicts challenged the consuls' control of their environment. Unwanted visitors, trespassing neighbors, and disagreements with the city authorities regarding the boundary between the garden and the adjacent marketplace called into question the inviolability of consular spaces. In response, the consuls acted both in the context of the Moroccan legal framework and within their diplomatic networks to reinforce their control of the consular house and the Swedish garden.

Title: Locations of power as targets for crowd actions in early modern Scotland**Abstract ID: 438**Kajsa Varjonen¹,¹ *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

In 1725 the residence of a Scottish MP in Glasgow was destroyed by a crowd in protest of his support for a tax on malt. The crowd also attacked a detachment of soldiers that had been sent to Glasgow to preserve order and tried to hinder the troops from entering the town's guard room. This paper looks at how the crowd actions of 1725 reflect the experiences of locations of power. The MP's residence and the town guard were places that had meaning to the local populace as spaces of power and were therefore attacked in protest against the state's policies. This case reveals the boundaries between what the crowd perceived to be legitimate targets

for their protest and what places were seen to be either off-limits or unimportant to them.

Title: Cooperation and conflict between burghers and scholars during the turn of the 18th century

Abstract ID: 439

Robin Engblom¹,

¹ *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

The founding of the Royal Academy of Turku in 1640 marked the emergence of a new institution with its own jurisdiction and social hierarchies. The university staff enjoyed certain privileges and were subject to rules imposed by the university's constitutions, discerning them from the general population in Turku. Despite the university's and its staff's distinct positions in the urban landscape, economic, social and cultural intertwinement with the local community was essential.

In this paper, I discuss urban interaction through conflict and cooperation between university staff and townspeople in Turku during the turn of the 18th century. My case study focuses on boundary crossing activities between burghers and university staff, with the aim to explore how cooperation between these social groups helped to bend the restrictions imposed on them.

Session: S-06-04 - Political History and Cultural Memory**Date: 14-08-2025 - 14:00 - 16:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Independence Day of Finland as a constructor of cultural memory**Abstract ID: 106**[lisa Aaltonen](#)¹,¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

Independence Day commemorations and festivities can be seen as ways to construct and perpetuate a nation's cultural memory. They are also ways to define what should be remembered and what should be forgotten. Cultural memory is understood here as an institution that carries a community's cultural identity preserved in symbolic forms (A. Assmann 2008).

Finland declared independence from Soviet Russia in December 1917. Two years later, 6th of December was celebrated for the first time as an official national day. During the 1920s the main elements of the Independence Day of Finland were created and rooted through annual repetition.

In my presentation I will examine how Independence Day of Finland was commemorated from 1919 to the present day and what was its role in constructing the Finnish cultural memory. My sources consist mostly of newspaper material.

Title: The “Baku Swedes” and the Bolshevik Revolution: Migrations and Belongings in the Fluid Borderlands of Caucasus after 1917**Abstract ID: 116**[Fredrik Petersson](#)¹,¹ *Södertörn University, Sweden*

The consequences of the Russian revolution in 1917, and the ensuing power struggle of the Bolsheviks resolutely transformed the geopolitical scenery of the former Russian empire. In this individual paper, focus is on how individuals of Swedish origin by birth or marriage that lived in the Caucasus region, were affected by the tumultuous and violent political scenery when the Bolsheviks gradually seized power in the fluid borderlands of the region. Questions of boundaries and nationalization is relevant here as they highlight migration, the importance and functionality of what a citizenship constituted, and how geopolitical aspirations

determined possibilities for groups of people with dissimilar national backgrounds to either leave voluntarily or abscond with no other choice than to save their lives. Boundaries represents therefore, in this sense, a key aspect in this spatial scenery. Of interest is to emphasize the twofold inquiry into citizenship and belongings, and how this was practiced in reality. The paper takes its methodological and theoretical departure from a global micro-historical perspective, and is based on archival research conducted in Swedish governmental and commission collections.

Title: The Interconnection of Nature and Adaptation in the Memories of Karelian Evacuees

Abstract ID: 124

Silja Heikkinen ¹,

¹ *University of Oulu, Finland*

This paper explores Karelian evacuees' relationship with nature from the perspectives of memory studies and environmental history. After the Second World War over 400,000 people were forcibly displaced from Karelia region as Finland was forced to cede eastern territories to the Soviet Union. This study examines selected set of memory-based writings by Karelians that have been collected through various thematic surveys in the 1980-1990's and archived by Finnish Literacy Society. I utilize qualitative content analysis to examine how these writings discuss the lost connection with nature of Karelia.

This paper provides new insights into research on Karelian evacuees but also asks topical questions about the significance of nature for well-being. Moreover, it adds to the understanding of how a relationship with nature helped people cope with forced migration and settle in.

Title: Memory Borders: Exploring Jewish migration from the Baltics to Norway 1880-1920

Abstract ID: 280

Jon Reitan ¹,

¹ *Norwegian University of Science and Technology NTNU, Norway*

From 1880 to 1920, around 2,5 million Eastern European Jews emigrated from their homes in the so-called Pale of Settlement, mainly because of poverty, discrimination, unemployment, and demographic pressure. Most migrants looked westwards and established diaspora communities in Northern and Southern America, South Africa,

Palestine, and countries in Western Europe. A small minority of the Jewish migrants from the Baltics opted for the shortest geographical route, crossing the Baltic Sea to Scandinavia. Hence, approximately 1 000 Jews lived in Norway in 1910. This presentation aims at discussing how, and the extent to which historical migration and integration processes are a part of Jewish collective identities and memory cultures today. How has a collective memory of migration been formed, developed, and articulated over time, and what has been the role and function of material cultural heritage and places of origin in these processes? The main empirical point of departure is an oral history project conducted with 2nd and 3rd generation of migrants from the Jewish community in Trondheim.

Session: S-06-05 - Approaching History Through Literature**Date: 14-08-2025 - 14:00 - 16:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Menacing Darkness and Divine Intervention in the Medieval Forest: Transgressive Experiences Between Nature and Sacrality in Medieval Miracle Stories and Sermons**Abstract ID: 324** Lovisa Olsson ¹,¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

This paper will explore the contesting spiritual meanings assigned to the medieval forest, as presented in the medieval miracle stories and sermons. In religious texts and popular imagination, the forest is depicted as a place that stands in contrast to culture and civilization, yet this view varies from depicting it as being a sacred place where divine wisdom could be reached to showing it as a dark, threatening and pagan place inhabited by dangerous creatures. In investigating how these texts describe the forest in relation dichotomies such as nature/sacrality or Christian/pagan, the clashes related to changing religious outlooks as well as the perceptions of the spiritual relationship between man and nature can be better understood.

Title: Nocturnal Darkness - a border between today and tomorrow**Abstract ID: 50** Susanna Lahtinen ¹,¹ *University of Turku, Finland*

Night has been seen as a border, as a final frontier to be conquered. As night falls the darkness descends and the world we know changes. Day and night, light and darkness have been seen to be on the opposite sides, having ongoing fight against each other. The nocturnal darkness has always been a bit unknown. The feelings towards it have changed in different periods. The dark hours have been experienced various ways, and nighttime has been considered terrifying, but also somewhat sublime. Still, people for many reasons have encountered the darkness. In my paper I use travel journals as a source material and I focus in the long eighteenth century.

In this paper I consider nocturnal darkness as a space, place, and a time that has evoked various emotions on the experiencers. I approachs night as sort of a liminal space, a mental border between today and tomorrow. How was this border experienced?

Title: Sigrid Boo – å skrive i og for sin tid

Abstract ID: 259

Jens Johan Hyvik¹,

¹ *University of South-Eastern Norway, Norway*

Sigrid Boo (1898-1953) var en norsk forfatterinne som var aktiv i mellomkrigstiden. Mest kjent av bøkene hennes er *Vi som går kjøkkenveien* (1930) som også ble filmatisert. Bøkene hennes har ofte blitt betraktet som «populærlitteratur» og oppnådde begrenset anerkjennelse i sin samtid, selv om Boo kunne få ros for god observasjonsevne, humor og ironi. Bøkene oppnådde høye opplagstall gjennom hele mellomkrigstiden og ble oversatt til mange språk, blant dem de fleste nordiske. I dag er forfatterskapet likevel mer eller mindre glemmt. I dette innlegget vil jeg diskutere i hvilken grad bøkene, så vel som resepsjonen av bøkene, kan fortelle om samfunnsstrukturer og mellommenneskelige relasjoner i mellomkrigstiden.

Session: S-06-08 - Late medieval elites session 1: Elites, trade and and the non-agrarian sector in the late medieval period**Date: 14-08-2025 - 14:00 - 16:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Non agrarian resources and local elites. The case of Jemtland**Abstract ID: 600****Magne Njåstad¹,****¹ Norwegian University of Science and Tech, Trondheim, Norway**

Handel med utmarksressurser har vært et økonomisk grunnlag for lokale eliter i senmiddelalderen. Delvis kunne dette dreie seg om produkter som inngikk i langdistansehandel. I foredraget vil det i hovedsak bli fokusert på kontroll over utmarksressurser og handel med disse ressursene, både i regionale nettverk men også langdistansehandel. Eksempler vil være pels- og skinnhandel fra Jemtland, kontroll over lokale fiskeressurser i elver og innsjøer i deler av Norge, og mer spesialisert produksjon av nisjeprodukter som for eksempel kalk. Videre vil det bli fokusert på hvordan denne typen handle kan kobles til klientforhold og kredittforbindelser.

Title: The Church and the Fish. The Catholic Church in Iceland and its involvement in fish production and fish export in the 14th to 16th centuries.**Abstract ID: 601****Árni Daníel Júlíusson¹,****¹ University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland**

In the 14th to 16th centuries the Catholic Church became a very strong presence in Icelandic society in all respects. Among the things it did was to expand its internal borders within Iceland, obtaining large landed estates and gaining a huge stake in fish production and fish export in the form of stockfish. In 1402-1404 the Black Death finally reached Iceland, devastating the country half a century later than the rest of Europe. How did the church respond to the changed circumstances, especially regarding fish production and fish exports after this? The response involved accepting new partners in trade, first the English merchant-fishermen in the 15th century and later German merchants, often from Hamburg. Internally in Iceland it

involved huge reorganisation of property and labour, hitherto not properly analysed in this context.

Title: Nye tider, nye tiender – tørrfiskens omstrukturering av den nordnorske eliten

Abstract ID: 602

Sigrun Høgetveit Berg¹,

¹ *Universitet i Tromsø, Norges arktiske universitet, Tromsø, Norway*

I Sættargjerda i Tønsberg frå 1277, forliket mellom kongemakt og kyrkjemakt i forlenginga av Magnus Lagabøtes Landslov frå 1274, vann kyrkja vann fram med mange av sine krav, mellom anna når det galdt tienda. Forliket utløyste kraftige reaksjonar – og i dei påfølgande tiåra kan me sjå spor av sterke dragkampar mellom ulike interesser om tiendforvaltninga. Dette forsterka seg utover i seinmellomalderen, då utviklinga av tørrfisknæringa la grunnen for enorm auke i inntekspotensialet for dei som hadde hand om fisketienda og tørrfiskhandelen. Svartedauden, hansaforbundets vekst og andre sosio-økonomiske forhold i nord kom til å føre til ei radikal endring av elite-strukturane i dei nordnorske samfunna, noko *tiendforvaltninga* kan kaste interessant lys over.

Session: S-06-09 - Peopling maritime landscapes – bridging sea and land in the 1600s-1800s. Part I.**Date: 14-08-2025 - 14:00 - 16:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: The Pit Stop - A Shipping Perspective on Services Provided by the International Network of Sailortowns.**Abstract ID: 576****Andrine Nilsen^{1 2}****¹ University of Gothenburg, Göteborg, Sweden****² Rio Göteborg Natur & Kulturkooperativ, Göteborg, Sweden**

Port towns can metaphorically be referred to as “pit stops” i.e. service stations where ships pulled in for supplies and repairs. I have studied three ships owned by the Swedish West India Company and examined their pit stops in ports, 1790-1806, e.g. Stockholm, Gothenburg, London, and St. Barthelémy. The driving question is: *What type of maritime service did the three Swedish ships use within the Transatlantic world?* These pit stops have generated receipts in ship’s archives that have enabled my research on questions regarding maritime provisioning, repairs, gender, lodging and the hiring of the crew as well as on waterfront labour. By creating a timeline of the receipts they are also an optimal way of tracing the ship’s sea-routes. My results will show how the signed and dated receipts offer a groundbreaking way of finding clearcut links/encounters between the small- or big-time entrepreneurs on shore and the sailors at sea.

Title: Maritime Meeting-Places - in the Early Modern Atlantic and North Sea areas**Abstract ID: 577****Finn-einar Eliassen¹****¹ USN School of Business, Vestfold, Norway**

In the maritime world, meeting-places were crucial for ship masters, sailors, merchants and ship-owners, as well as for people active in the public, service and auxiliary maritime trades. This will be illustrated with examples from the Atlantic and North Sea regions in the decades around 1800. Maritime meeting-places might be

informal and ad hoc, or planned and organized for the purpose. They might be on shore, inland, or even on the high seas, wherever ships and people in the maritime and related trades met to exchange news and information, goods and services, money and skills. Meeting-places also offered different perspectives on seafaring, trade and society – from the sea, from land, or from littoral interfaces between the two.

Title: Women on the Waves: Nordic female sailors in disguise during the long 19th century

Abstract ID: 579

Martina Hjertman¹,

¹ *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

This presentation introduces the research project “*Women on the Waves. Disguised Work and Gendered Geographies in the Nordic 1700s-1800s*”. The project aspires to add a fresh outlook on the history of maritime labour, and expectedly male maritime geographies, by writing a new Nordic history based on traces of forgotten female actors who during the long 19th century worked as sailors in military and merchant fleets, but in male clothing.

The project particularly focuses to conclude on what push-and-pull factors impelled girls and women to abandon lives, networks, and identities ashore, for a male identity and secret life at sea. Secondly, it analyses how news media and popular culture portrayed female sailors, and as such were part in negotiating and challenging roles and spaces of men and women, sailor ideals, as well as inspired more women to go to sea.

Title: Securing Swedish Trade: Women’s Contributions to Maritime Security in 18th-Century Mediterranean Commerce

Abstract ID: 747

Joachim Östlund¹,

¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

Session: S-06-10 - Communicating mental suffering in 16th to 19th-century Nordic communities**Date: 14-08-2025 - 14:00 - 16:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: From melancholia to hysteria: Perceiving and treating mental illness within social elite families in 19th century Finland**Abstract ID: 480**Evelina Wilson¹,¹ *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

This paper examines perceptions of mental illness among elite families in 19th-century Finland. Focus lies on how they described mental illness, what they considered to be normal and what they regarded as a disease, how they explained and understood mental illness and its causes, as well as their methods of treatment.

Drawing on family correspondences spanning the entire 19th century, cases from families across different periods of the century are highlighted. While previous research has largely emphasized mental health issues of elite women during this century, this paper sheds new light on these women in a Nordic context and includes cases involving elite men to provide a comprehensive picture. The material allows for the examination of changes in these families' perceptions that occurred during a century marked by significant advancements in medical science, and by the emergence of psychiatry as a scientific discipline at the end of the century.

Title: Interpretations and interaction between mental illness, patients and physicians in the late 18th and early 19th century Finland**Abstract ID: 481**Saara-Maija Kontturi¹,¹ *University of Eastern Finland, Finland*

This paper examines how physicians of the late 18th and early 19th century Finland described and interpreted mental illness in their patients. The sources used are the district physicians' annual reports and medico-legal reports in criminal cases. During this period, the professional status of physicians was developing in Finland and they

strengthened their position in legal medicine, taking charge of medico-legal reports and determining the mental status of suspects in criminal cases. The understanding of mental illness was changing as well, seen in how the descriptions of patient cases were more detailed and focusing on the situational and social explanations of the patients' and suspects' mental states. The paper analyzes the role of the physician as the observer and interpreter of the mental state of patients and criminal suspects.

Title: Language of 'madness' in early modern Sweden: Expressing severe insanity in 17th- and 18th-century lower courts

Abstract ID: 482

Riikka Miettinen¹,

¹ *Tampere University, Finland*

This paper examines how illnesses and conditions that contemporaries perceived as severe madness were verbalized and communicated in 17th- and 18th-century Sweden. The focus is on the language, narratives and verbal expressions of 'full' madness (in Swe e.g. *galenskap*) and serious forms of lunacy, such as 'raving madness' (*raseri*) and being *wild*, in the lower court records. The material comes especially from the areas of Central Sweden and Finland.

Although filtered and translated by scribes, testimonies of families, neighbours and other locals, as well as narratives provided by 'mad' individuals themselves, contain information about the lay expressions and discourses of madness. The vocabulary and language of mental derangement was rich, including specific terms for illnesses, umbrella terms of madness and vivid descriptions of behaviours and bodily sensations. There were common expressions, phrases and terms indicating irrational, even animalistic behaviours associated with severe madness, such as 'running around in the woods'.

**Session: S-06-11 - Animals in modern Nordic history part I:
Animals in farming and food production****Date: 14-08-2025 - 14:00 - 16:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: The co-production of farmed animals and humans in the emerging Finnish pig industry**Abstract ID: 410**Marja Jalava¹,¹ *Tampere University, Finland*

This paper explores the co-production of pig farmers and pigs since the late 1800s as a web of interspecies dependencies, which was increasingly shaped by the capitalist expansion in the world market for agricultural produce. By relating to the multidisciplinary field of Human-Animal Studies (HAS), it will particularly address to the question of how the new demands and practices of swine husbandry affected pigs as well as their keepers, as they both were subjugated under the logics of the market.

Title: The Great Pig Transformation: Danish pigs in the global food system, c.1860-c.1935**Abstract ID: 411**Mary Hilson¹, Heather Swanson¹¹ *Aarhus University, Denmark*

Pigs were crucial to the late 19th-century Danish agricultural revolution. Their numbers increased massively – from about 235,000 in 1837 to more than 2.5 million in 1914 and nearly 5 million in 1930. This rapid transition had enormous consequences, for landscapes and environments in Denmark and beyond, for human diets and health, and not least for pig lives. In this paper we outline a new research project on Danish pig history during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Combining insights from animal history, food history and environmental history, we follow pigs from birth to slaughter, and from the farms of rural Jutland to the British breakfast table and the great plains of the American west. We discuss methods and approaches for pig history and the challenges associated with these.

Title: From precious flesh to feed efficient genetic product: the journey of Norwegian pigs 1900-2020**Abstract ID: 412**Karen Lykke ¹,¹ *University of Oslo, Norway*

In the early 1900s, Norwegian pigs were farm renovators, upscaling and recycling weeds, roots and domestic waste through their bodies. Farmers and slaughterers would through formal and informal rituals turn the pig into valuable animal flesh, changing its status from family member to edible flesh. In the post war years, the pig became a tool to keep smallholders on the land, thus playing an important role in district politics. At the turn of the 21st century, the pig's role was firmly established as the symbol of bio-industrial engineering. At present, every 5th pig that is slaughtered in the world has its origin in sperm from the Norwegian-Dutch farmer-owned business Topigs Norsvin. The Norwegian pig's journey and the trajectory of its shape-shifting from family member to genetic matter from can be explored through close reading curricular texts and other pedagogical publications from agricultural schools and colleges.

Title: Geographies of Feed: Transnational entanglements of Danish pig diets**Abstract ID: 413**Heather Swanson ¹,¹ *Aarhus University, Denmark*

From the mid-19th century, Danish pig diets became increasingly international. Imported grains, especially maize, along with cottonseed and soy oilseed cakes, began to make up a greater per portion of pig fodder – not only via direct feeding, but also via changes in the feed of the dairy cows whose skim milk byproducts were a primary part of pig meals. While these new feeds affected the growth, productivity, and taste of Danish animals, they also fostered marked landscape transformations in the regions from which they originated. By following pig feeds back to their source ingredients, this talk explores how Danish pigs have been entangled with seemingly distant places. It considers how attention to the dynamics of the transnational animal feed trade expands the geographies through which we study Danish pigs to include sites where they neither sat foot nor appeared as bacon. In doing so, it proposes that the rise of the Danish pork industry is fundamentally intertwined with the widespread ecological changes across the disparate areas that became mobilized as feed production zones in relation to new forms of animal industrialization.

Session: S-06-12 - Alternative Dispute Resolution and Social Order in the Age of Absolutism

Date: 14-08-2025 - 14:00 - 16:00

Abstract(s):

Title: Peacekeepers: Arbitration Courts and Social Order in 19th Century Iceland

Abstract ID: 428

Vilhelm Vilhelmsson¹,

¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

There were at least 150 arbitration courts operating in Iceland throughout the 19th century and until the interwar years. Following legislation issued by the Danish-Norwegian absolutist regime in the 1790s, these courts had the primary role of resolving disputes and maintaining the king's peace and public order through local mediation. This paper will examine how these courts fared in their task. A quantitative analysis of the types of cases dealt with by Icelandic arbitration courts as well as their success rate in resolving them will thus lead to a broader discussion of the particular social order these courts were mandated to maintain.

Title: Disregarding Boundaries. Physical and Verbal Altercations in Disputes Over Land

Abstract ID: 429

Harpa Rún Ásmundsdóttir¹,

¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

One of the most common causes of dispute among Icelandic farmers, who took their cases to arbitration courts in the 19th century, were quarrels over landed property in one way or another. These disputes, to name a few, often included feuds over boundaries, intrusion, pasturing of livestock and ownership of driftwood. In this paper the focus will be on landed property disputes that escalated and often led to physical and/or verbal altercations between the quarrelling parties and sometimes even mistreatment of livestock. These cases show that in these disputes the quarrelling parties did not only disregard their neighbours' landed boundaries but also their personal boundaries, with verbal abuse, physical violence, and threats.

Title: The limits of acceptable conduct: Femininity in Icelandic arbitration courts in the 19th century**Abstract ID: 430**Ása Ester Sigurðardóttir¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

This paper will show how arbitrary court cases can be used to study prevailing ideals of women's behaviour in 19th century Iceland. The discussion will focus on cases where women served the role of the accused and analyse their conduct and how it was perceived by male members of the arbitration courts. Within these documents we can see various women testing the boundaries of acceptable ways of conduct or behaving in unfeminine ways. Whether they challenged these ideals outright and in a conscious manner, or by circumstance and accident, these instances of women stepping out of line are incredible contemporary sources of how women were *not* to behave in various circumstances at the time.

Title: To the Assistance of Complaining and Disputing Citizens. The City Council as Mediator and Arbiter in Eighteenth-Century Copenhagen**Abstract ID: 431**Ulrik Langen¹, Peter Wessel_Hansen¹,¹ *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

In 1795, the Danish-Norwegian absolutist regime issued a new law establishing arbitration courts (*forligskommissioner*) in all parts of the dual kingdom. However, the Arbitration Courts built on a much older tradition of mediation and arbitration. In Copenhagen, even before 1795, citizens could take their complaints to the City Council when they did not want or could not afford to take their case to court. Complaints concerned everything from violence, insults, and bad behaviour to labour disputes, lack of maintenance, and financial issues. The paper examines the formal, imagined, and actual role and authority of the City Council in cases of complaints and disputes between Copenhageners throughout the eighteenth century. The City Council played an important role as an easily accessible authority where cases could be presented quickly and without great expense. However, there was not necessarily a correlation between the complainants' hopes and expectations of the City Council's ability to impose sanctions on fellow citizens and actual practices, which varied from being executive to powerless depending on the issue.

Session: S-06-14 - Is there a Nordic Way of Doing Microhistory? III**Date: 14-08-2025 - 14:00 - 16:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Nordic Environmental Microhistories**Abstract ID: 731**Ada Arendt¹,¹ *University of Oslo, Norway*

This talk explores the methodological intersection of microhistory and environmental history, focusing on Nordic contributions to the field. I examine how Scandinavian scholars have uniquely bridged reflection on past individual human (and more-than-human) experience with large-scale environmental processes. The presentation highlights applications of Carlo Ginzburg's "evidential paradigm" to environmental questions and cases where the concept of "exceptional normal" is employed to illuminate broader patterns through anomalous events. I also examine how Nordic environmental microhistories have expanded our understanding of more-than-human agency in historical processes, offering new perspectives on scale, evidence, and causation in historical research.

Title: Exploring the Overlap of Microhistory and Literacy Practices in Nordic Historiography**Abstract ID: 732**Davíð Ólafsson¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

In this talk, I will explore the extent to which microhistory and literacy practices overlap in Nordic historiography. My point of departure is the field in which I have conducted most of my research over the past three decades: the history of literacy and literacy practices in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These two aspects have been deeply intertwined, and microhistory, with its focus on small-scale narratives and the lived experiences of ordinary individuals, provides an ideal framework for studying literacy practices in Iceland.

A key foundation for such research is the availability of rich source material that sheds light on individuals who were previously regarded primarily as subjects of

public authorities rather than as active agents in their own lives. The study of egodocuments—such as personal diaries and autobiographies—has further revealed how individuals navigated their identities and documented their lives, offering invaluable insights into Icelandic society during periods of transformation.

With this in mind, I will examine historiography in the cultural and social history of other Nordic countries and map out the points of contact between microhistory and literacy practices within these research traditions.

Title: Microhistory left out? Is that the situation in Norway?

Abstract ID: 733

Nils Olav Østrem¹, Cecilie Aarøe¹,

¹ *University of Stavanger, Norway*

Nils Olav Østrem and Cecilie Aarøe will discuss the microhistory approach in Norway compared with how other historians go about doing their work. Is there a huge difference between these two camps and has microhistory been accepted by the traditional group of scholars; or how has it been dealt with within the “institute of history” in some specific way? Can we talk about the “ruling class” among historians in the country in that way?

Østrem will give a short historiographically overview over writing microhistory in Norway the last years. For example there has in the norwegian tradition of writing local society history, been a sort of discussion going on about the connection between local history and microhistory. Aarøe will shortly focus on the writing in Norway of war history the last 80 years, seen from a microhistorically perspective.

Session: S-07-01 - Peace and Politics**Entangled Histories of Anti-Militarism and Peace Activism in the Nordic Countries and Beyond | Boundaries of Remembrance: Peacekeeping Missions and the Politics of Memory in Sweden and Finland****Date: 14-08-2025 - 16:30 - 18:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: “1 % less of military expenditure and Africa is literate”: Peace and development in the work of the Women’s International Democratic Federation and the Nordic countries**Abstract ID: 376**Yulia Gradskova¹,¹ *Södertörn University, Sweden*

Advancing peace during the Cold War, women often explained negative effects of the global arms race through examples of how the money spent for the preparation of the war could be used better, not least, for improving women’s and children’s rights and for development. However, advocating peace internationally, women’s groups and networks not rarely acted in cooperation with political parties and transnational organizations, while their ideas and claims could not fully escape the Cold War logic. The presentation is dedicated to the peace agenda of the pro-Soviet transnational organization, Women’s International Democratic Federation (WIDF), and its collaboration with women’s networks in the Nordic countries. In particular, I pay attention to the World Conference for Children that was convened by the WIDF in Stockholm in 1966 and to the peace agenda of the WIDF at the UN Women’s conference in Copenhagen (1980).

Title: Icelandic Women's Movements, NATO and the Issue of World Peace 1949-1986.**Abstract ID: 377**Valgerður Pálmadóttir¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

This presentation explores Icelandic women's organisations' attitudes towards the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the US Navy base, and women's participation in the peace movement in Iceland from 1949-1986. Iceland is one of the founding members of NATO, but Iceland's membership – including the presence of the US Navy in Iceland (until 2006) – has been the object of severe political conflicts nationally, including tensions between nationalism and internationalism and left and right politics, all of which had clear gendered aspects. An important but under-researched matter in this respect is women and the women's movement's voice in this debate. That, in turn, is part of a larger discussion on the role of and ideas of women and women's movements concerning world peace and armed conflict. The primary focus of this presentation is to shed light on how the Cold War affected women's political activism in Iceland, their stance on the issue of world peace, and women's cross-political- and transnational solidarity as well as conflicts and ideological divides.

Title: “We seek no comparison”. Crisis management veterans and the shifting understanding of who constitutes a veteran in Finnish collective memory

Abstract ID: 655

Rasmus Marjanen¹,

¹ *Åbo akademi, Finland*

Finland has been an active participant in peacekeeping missions since 1956, and today, more than 45 000 Finns have partaken in various international operations. In 2016, peacekeepers were bestowed with a veteran status, and became officially known as crisis management veterans. The adapted term caused mixed reactions among peacekeepers, as well as the public, due to the historical connotations of the term *veteran* in Finnish collective memory. In this paper, I analyse how crisis management veterans have perceived gaining veteran status, and how they view it in a historical context. The primary material consists of a questionnaire-survey that I conducted among members of the Peacekeepers' Association Finland (SRTL). The answers address topics such as collective remembrance and the concept of being a veteran in a changing landscape regarding the demographic of the association, as well as the societal debate regarding veteran's affairs.

**Session: S-07-02 - Female remembrance 1400–1600, part 1:
writing, collecting, learning**

Date: 14-08-2025 - 16:30 - 18:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Women writing genealogy: Family memory and identity formation in late-medieval and early modern Sweden

Abstract ID: 448

Margaretha Nordquist¹,

¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

This paper presents a study of genealogical writings by women in late medieval and early modern Sweden. The study is part of a larger project which analyzes constructions of family, community, and self in genealogical writings by aristocratic women in Sweden and Denmark c. 1400–1750. The project explores the varied contents of these manuscripts as expressions of memory culture that point to the importance that these women ascribed to the past, and their roles as intermediaries between families and between generations. Some of the earliest of these writings by women in Sweden can be linked to Vadstena monastery. The analysis departs from the notion of genealogy as a gendered cultural phenomenon with fundamental implications for the perception and expression of kinship, memory, and identity. The representation of kinship bonds in these texts shows the importance of the family as a social, political, and cultural phenomenon, and as a fundamental junction for memory and emotion in an aristocratic memory culture.

Title: Saint Birgitta as actor, intercessor and subject of veneration in Scandinavian Bridgettines seals during the late Middle Ages.

Abstract ID: 742

Wilhelm Ljungar¹,

¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

The medieval seal functioned not only as a sign of authenticity but also as an extension of the presence and authoritative identity of its owner. In the High Middle Ages, the semiotic paradigm of representing presence was relatively stable, with the seal's owner typically depicted through an idealized image of him- or herself. However, by the 13th and 14th centuries, the emergence of corporate bodies and

increasingly dynamic social structures began to destabilize this paradigm. As a result, seals came to draw upon a broader range of loci of authority. Analyzing the positioning of seals within the broader semiotic context of their use can yield valuable insights into the social self-image of medieval individuals and institutions.

Within this framework, the Scandinavian Birgittine Order and its use of Saint Bridget on seals are of particular interest for several reasons. First, the Order was the only major monastic organization established in Scandinavia during the Late Middle Ages. Second, the Bridgettines were the only religious order to have both the tomb and bodily remains of their patron saint located within Scandinavia. Consequently, an examination of how the Order chose to invoke the memory and agency of Saint Bridget on their seals offers a unique perspective on the self-image and authority the Order sought to project during this period.

Session: S-07-03 - French expeditions to the far north in the 19th century**Date: 14-08-2025 - 16:30 - 18:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: The reception in Iceland of the La Recherche expedition to the country in 1835-1836. Images and memories**Abstract ID: 424**Sumarliði Ísleifsson¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

In Atlas historique I and II, which were among the books that were published after The French La Recherche expedition to Iceland in 1835 and 1836, there are close to 140 lithographs from Iceland. In the illustrations, diverse sides of Icelandic society and nature are presented, and many of them were later published in other works that dealt with Iceland in the 19th century. In Iceland, on the other hand, the lithographs became only well-known after the middle of the 20th century. In the paper I will discuss the reception of the lithographs in Iceland, when they started to attract attention and why, how they were introduced and what cultural-historical role they gradually acquired in Icelandic society. Examples of their various uses will be given on how they were presented in different media.

Title: La Recherche expeditions (1835-1840): French scientific diplomacy for the Far North.**Abstract ID: 425**Léo Becka¹,¹ *Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France*

Between 1835 to 1840, the French navy organised a series of scientific expeditions to Iceland, Greenland, Scandinavia, Spitzbergen and Lapland. Paul Gaimard, a medical naturalist, heads up a Scientific Commission, representing all areas of knowledge. Although French diplomats kept a distance from these projects, these missions can be seen as the implementation of French foreign policy on the Far North. The means used, the content of the scientific productions and the itinerary of the expeditions reveal the ambitions of the July Monarchy. They aimed to maintain

the balance of power in Northern Europe, and to ensure that France had a voice in the Arctic regions.

Title: New Album for the Anthropocene. Reconsidering Paul Gaimard's Voyage en Islande et au Gröenland

Abstract ID: 427

[Æsa Sigurjónsdóttir](#)¹,

¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

Voyage en Islande et au Groenland exécuté pendant les années 1835 et 1836 sur la corvette la Recherche is a colossal research project published by the editor Arthus Bertrand in Paris, 1838-1852. Written under the direction of French medical doctor and naturalist Paul Gaimard (1793-1858), the publication includes three atlases: *Atlas historique* I and II, and *Atlas zoologique, médical et géographique*. Most of the lithographs constituting the atlases were made after drawings by Auguste Mayer (1805-1890), who participated in the expeditions as an experienced naval artist. As the first and only scientific atlases to represent these northern regions, they offer a vast array of images showcasing the uncharted territories of the Arctic, from Iceland's volcanic landscapes to Greenland's frozen terrain. The plates not only depict expansive vistas but also provide detailed illustrations of diverse topographies, zoology, and mineralogy. Additionally, they feature hunting scenes, portraits of indigenous inhabitants, and depictions of their environments. These large-scale landscapes invite interpretation and are exemplary of the French imperial gaze, as well as its social, political, and racial narratives. In my talk, I will explore these phantasms of colonial fascination from an ecological perspective.

Title: Envisioning Arctic travel. French imaginings of the North Pole from the 1860s to the 1900s.

Abstract ID: 735

[Alexandre Simon-Ekeland](#)¹,

¹ *University of Oslo, Norway*

Is there ice at the North Pole, or an open sea? Is it rich in resources, or desolate and useless? Should one travel there by ship, or by balloon?... How the North Pole and the Arctic were imagined by Frenchmen had consequences in the second half of the 19th century: it determined what kind of scientific, economic, politic ventures one could (and would want to) project to do there.

In this paper, I will discuss the connections between the representations of the Arctic that circulated in French media in these decades and the expedition projects that were proposed. I will analyse several projects of North Pole expeditions, none of which actually took place, and place them in the context of the way the Arctic regions were presented to Frenchmen, from geography classes in school to fancy spectacles.

Title: Reception of French travelogs within the German scientific discourses in the 18th century

Abstract ID: 423

Kodzik Joanna¹,

¹ *Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France*

At the end of the 18th century, many scholars in German-speaking territories received knowledge from the Arctic from new eyewitness accounts. The Enlightenment idea of utilitarianism not only introduced colonial and economic discourses, but led scholars to consider the history of humankind and seek new solutions to promote mental and physical health. In this context, knowledge from the circumpolar Arctic, transferred by missionaries, travellers or explorers, served to answer pressing questions about the origin of humans, as well as health and the environment.

This paper will discuss how French travel diaries contributed to the scientific discourse of the Enlightenment among German-speaking members of the Republic of Letters. Travel diaries and compilations of knowledge written in French during the 17th and 18th centuries led to new theories about humankind, especially with regard to the discourse of races, medical discourse, and the history of climate. The main aim is to demonstrate which Enlightenment ideas developed by German-speaking scholars were based on French travelogues. Answering this question will provide insight into the various communication practices, translation processes, and image construction in different parts of the Arctic until enterprises such as the French *La Recherche* expedition brought new scientific knowledge in 1830ties.

Session: S-07-04 - Intellectual History: Professional and Scholarly Boundaries and Identities**Date: 14-08-2025 - 16:30 - 18:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: From Culture to Research: External Funding in the Swedish Humanities and the Renegotiated Boundaries of Scientific Authority, 1929–1959**Abstract ID: 44**Hampus Östh Gustafsson¹,¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

In 1929, the Humanistic Fund was established in Sweden in order to improve the conditions of the humanities. The fund initially granted a wide range of projects, including field work and printing of doctoral dissertations. The applicants often held positions outside academia, for instance as school teachers. Along with new political demands and ongoing professionalization, and the introduction of governmental research councils in the 1940s, the Fund was thoroughly reformed, however. The infrastructural changes raised questions as to who would be eligible to apply for grants. This implied a fundamental renegotiation of the scholarly persona and the limits of who should be counted as a proper “researcher” in this transformed ecosystem of humanistic knowledge. The paper presents findings from a case study which is part of a broader project on epistemic effects of the emerging national infrastructure for research funding in the humanities and social sciences in the mid-20th century.

Title: The Spiritual Boundaries of Science: Holism as an Epistemic, Political, and Numinous Category**Abstract ID: 6**Bruno Hamnell¹,¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

My presentation outlines a theoretical framework for analyzing the historical intersections between science, ideology, and spirituality. Building on a model presented in *KNOW: A Journal on the Formation of Knowledge* (2020), I use the categories *the epistemic* and *the political* and argue that they need to be complemented with *the numinous* to capture spiritual and religious contestations in

science. I illustrate the intersection of these categories through the interdisciplinary history of the term *holism*. My examples are the South African statesman and biologist Jan Smuts, who coined the term in *Holism and Evolution* (1926); Abraham Maslow, who thought his humanistic-holistic approach to psychology would pave the way for a future psychological utopia, a "eupsychia"; and the ecofeminist historian Carolyn Merchant, who regards holistic perspectives to be necessary after Earth's entrance into a new geological era, the Anthropocene.

Title: Cultural mobilization within the Danish kingdom (1814-1864) Educational powerbrokers and the unexpected consequences of the “cultivation of culture”

Abstract ID: 295

Clarence Edvin Glad¹,

¹ *The Reykjavik Academy, Iceland*

Cultural mobilization within the Danish kingdom (1814-1864)

Great political, demographic and cultural changes occurred in the Danish kingdom between the loss of Norway in 1814 and that of Schleswig-Holstein in 1864. Greater tensions became evident between various language groups, which, together with rising national sentiments, had an impact on discussions about the significance of Old Norse texts. A reaction arose against Danish cultural dominance, and the question “Whose cultural heritage is this anyway?” became more pressing in the attempt to identify what common threads in Old Norse material united various Scandinavian and Germanic peoples and what set them apart. The study and publication of Old Norse texts became ever more prominent in the public sphere. Gradually, they became the foundation of a new self-image for the inhabitants both of individual countries and of larger regions. Attempts were made to mold an exclusive “Danish” cultural nationalism, particularly in contrast to those of Norwegian and German-speaking language groups. At the same time, a multilayered ethnic identity was alive among important segments of the various language groups. The utilisation of the same source material contributed to the demise of the Danish conglomerate empire and to the creation of new territorial boundaries.

Session: S-07-06 - Nordic Truth and Reconciliation Commissions**Date: 14-08-2025 - 16:30 - 18:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: The Right to Know: an Individual and Collective Right**Abstract ID: 678****Rachael Lorna Johnstone**¹,¹ *University of Akureyri, Akureyri, Iceland*

The right to know is an essential aspect of the procedural right to an effective remedy under international human rights treaty law and an element of the substantive right to reparation. It is both an individual right for survivors and their families following human rights abuses and a collective right of communities seeking to map their own histories in the aftermath of extremes of colonial violence and systematic human rights abuses. This paper maps the legal basis of the right to know in the context of truth and reconciliation processes in the Arctic. It surveys treaty law, customary law including the peremptory (higher) norm of self-determination, case law, and general principles of law in respect of historic abuses by States and others against Indigenous Peoples and linguistic minorities in Arctic States.

Session: S-07-07 - Late medieval elites session 2: Aristocratic networks**Date: 14-08-2025 - 16:30 - 18:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: The Lagman Office as a Transboundary Power Resource in Late Medieval Sweden**Abstract ID: 593****Olov Lund¹,****¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden***

The Lagman Office as a Transboundary Power Resource in Late Medieval Sweden

This presentation explores the Swedish office of lagman as a transboundary power resource from a network perspective. Social networks are among the most fundamental and timeless forms of organisation, as they connect people, spaces, and places. In late medieval times, the Swedish realm comprised eleven lagsagor (legal districts), each with its lagman who, alongside the king, held the highest judicial and political authority. The study addresses a central question, initiated by Max Weber, concerning the significance of informal contacts in exercising public offices and conducting politics within a society characterised by diverse special interests. With the support of the concepts of separation of powers, delegation, networks, and lobbying, the presentation focuses on how lagmän gained power and legitimacy by examining the election process, as well as how they, through delegation and networks, managed to perform their duties despite substantial geographical distances and limited time and resources. The hypothesis is that the lagman office served as a central and mobile geographical node and mediator between the central government, magnate elites and the local communities. In this way, the lagman office was both transboundary and cohesive, and thus an essential part of societal organisation and the process of state formation.

Title: Borders, identities, loyalties and social networks for the aristocracy in late medieval Scandinavia**Abstract ID: 594****Erik Opsahl¹,****¹ *Norwegian University of Science and Technology NTNU, Trondheim, Norway***

Borders, identities, loyalties and social networks for the aristocracy in late medieval Scandinavia

From 1397, the Nordic region was united in a political union. According to tradition, a significant driving force behind the political union was a Nordic aristocracy essentially detached from national borders and instead saw the entire Nordic region as an arena for promoting its interests. If national identities existed, they were subordinate to the aristocrats' class ambitions. The national argument in this perspective was a political figurehead for the aristocracy's real interests and political goals. Furthermore, it has been argued that the high nobility in Norway after 1350, due to the demographic and economic consequences of the plague epidemics, became more isolated from the other social groups in the country. The paper will critically discuss these perspectives by taking the will of a Swedish-born Norwegian knight from 1400 as its starting point. The paper will point out and argue that the aristocrats of that time were as complex personalities as modern people, with multiple identities, not to say identifications, with individual differences, and where borders, identities and loyalties were all real phenomena in that time. The paper will further point out how important the social network was for the social position of a top Nordic aristocrat around 1400.

Title: Rightful men of the realm: Domestic and foreign elites in Norway's overseas realm ca. 1460-1536**Abstract ID: 595****Ian Peter Grohse¹,****¹ *Universitet i Tromsø, Norges arktiske universitet, Tromsø, Norway***

Rightful men of the realm: Domestic and foreign elites in Norway's overseas realm ca. 1460-1536.

Late-medieval Norwegian law precluded foreign men from assuming governing office. These restrictions aimed to bolster the domestic aristocracy's claim to authority and revenue, and to protect peasants from the corruptions of foreigners with limited knowledge of, or respect for, Norwegian law and custom. In the mid-fourteenth century, these restrictions were extended to the Norwegian crown's tributary countries in the North Atlantic, where only "the rightful inhabitants and native men of Norway's realm" (Noriigis Riigis retthe metbyggere oc indffødde mendt) were to enjoy governing authority and the benefices of public office. This talk addresses the changing political and ideological conditions that underlay these demands. It is argued that the new system of fief-holding introduced by the Danish-centric monarchy, which granted foreign merchants authority and revenue in exchange for regular duties and services, prompted inhabitants of Iceland and the Faroes, along with their affiliates in Norway, to emphasize the rights of domestic elites and the dangers of foreign rule. These developments also reflect the growth of 'council constitutionalism', which required monarchs to acknowledge the authority of Norway's council of the realm, not only in matters affecting Norway, but also in those concerning overseas territories 'under Norway's crown' (wnder Norgis krone).

Title: The limits of intercession. Norwegian Danish aristocratic relations in the 1520s and -30s

Abstract ID: 596

Randi Bjørshol Wærdahl¹,

¹ ***Norwegian University of Science and Technology NTNU, Trondheim, Norway***

My presentation focuses on relations between Norwegian and Danish nobles in the 1520s and -30s. These relations are often depicted negatively in Norwegian historiography with a focus on Danish noblemen marrying into Norwegian families and gaining access to wealth and positions Norwegian noblemen sought to reserve for themselves. I address another aspect of these marriages, namely the opportunity this gave Norwegians to directly and indirectly access a large network of influential men in Denmark who wielded influence on central government and at court. Who asked for intercession, and why did they require assistance? To whom did they direct their requests, and did intercession help them achieve their goals? In addition to general observations, I will present a case where an elderly Norwegian widow enlists her great nephew in Denmark to secure a tax exemption.

Session: S-07-08 - Lutheran Pastors as transnational agents in the Early Modern Nordic World**Date: 14-08-2025 - 16:30 - 18:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: A clerical communication circuit**Abstract ID: 614**Gina Dahl¹,¹ *Bergen Universitet, Norway*

On 30 April 1781, parish priest Japhet Hegelund in Etne (Western Norway) received a circular. It had been sent from Bishop Irgens in Bergen on 11 January the same year and contained information about prizes issued by the Royal Norwegian Society of Science. The recorded dates signal that it took more than three months for the circular to reach a parish close to the bishop's seat.

In this paper, I will explore how information was conveyed across national borders, and more specifically from Copenhagen onwards to Norwegian bishops and deans. I also want to question how information was circulated and the time it took to do so, as well as the bishop's role as mediator of information in this important "wheel of communication".

Title: Crossing borders: the educational context of Swedish pastors in the 17th century**Abstract ID: 615**Steffie Schmidt¹,¹ *Universität Osnabrück, Germany*

If we look at the theological educational context in the Swedish kingdom in early modern times, it was characterised by borders in many respects: access to academic education was limited, not least because university teaching only really flourished in the 17th century. Foreign impulses in the form of active recruitment for church or academic leadership positions were not only limited, but also downright undesirable. Instead, the career paths of native scholars led with impressive regularity from the arts faculty to the theological professorship and then to the bishopric. For prospective pastors in the 17th century, it probably made no difference whether they acquired their theological education at the university or at one of the

episcopal grammar schools. The internationality of Lutheranism – not in Sweden? It is not quite that simple. This paper traces the transnational Lutheran networks that conveyed theological ideas, concepts and discussions to (future) pastors in the north.

Title: The Pastor as a Transnational Agent in Early Modern Iceland: A Historiographical Survey

Abstract ID: 616

Haraldur Hreinsson¹,

¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

This paper will provide an overview of the shift that has taken place in the historiography of the Icelandic early modern pastor as a transnational agent. Until relatively recently, such concerns have received limited scholarly attention. For long, Iceland's geographic location in the subarctic North Atlantic was seen to have impeded exchange and transmission between Iceland and the European continent. Such descriptions have been seen as particularly apt for the Early Modern Period (esp. the 17th c. and the early 18th c.), not least because of the severe living conditions at the time keeping both pastors and their flocks preoccupied with mere survival. Along such lines, 20th century scholarship framed Icelandic culture as cut-off and strangely out of time, an 'uchronia' in an 'in-between-age'. Recent decades have witnessed a thorough revision of such explanations as scholars have managed to show that despite challenging outer circumstances, a vivid literary culture was kept alive – first and foremost by pastors – in hymns and other kinds of poetry, shaped by intellectual and theological currents elsewhere in the world.

Title: Lutheran Pastors and the dissemination of ideas in Early Modern Denmark

Abstract ID: 617

Morten Fink-Jensen¹,

¹ *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

The paper will address how the agency of Lutheran pastors in Denmark for several centuries after the Reformation played a decisive role in the circulation of transnational ideas relating to theology and social organization. Through their sermons and writings, above all translations of primarily German or Latin texts into Danish, pastors spearheaded the drive for the establishment and the consolidation of the Reformation in the sixteenth century. The dissemination of changing

transnational perspectives and ideals in connection to Lutheran Orthodoxy in the 17th century and Pietism in the 18th century also relied on the agency of pastors. It could thus be argued that the translational activities of the clergy simultaneously advocated for a fixed social order based on Reformation ideals while also communicating new and changing ideas.

Session: S-07-09 - Förfalskningar, språk och litterarisering i det tidigmoderna Sverige och Finland 1700-1850**Date: 14-08-2025 - 16:30 - 18:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Falsa pengar och deras utpräglare i början av 1800-talets Finland**Abstract ID: 414**Kirsi Vainio-Korhonen¹, **Mikael Korhonen**,¹¹ *University of Turku, Finland*

Då Finland införlivades med det ryska kejsardömet 1809 blev rubeln officiell valuta. Den svenska riksdalern kvarstod dock länge som betalningsmedel och på penningmarknaden förekom som mest sex olika valutor av olika valörer. Det här skapade oklarhet i de monetära förhållandena i landet och lockade många bedragare att använda sig av förfalskningar särskilt bland allmogen. Vem förfalskade och utpräglade sedlar och mynt i Finland under början av 1800-talet? Vilka färdigheter krävdes och hur dömdes förfalskarna?

Sedelförfalskning av riksdalerna krävde åtminstone en viss kännedom om det svenska språket för texterna på riksdalerna var svenska och till en del även på finska. En för hand gjord falsk sedel avslöjades lätt av att handstilen var vacklande, texten saknade ord och bokstäver, felskrivningar förekom m.m. Förfalskarna och utpräglarna hörde till övervägande del till den finskspråkiga allmogen: drängar, arbetskarlar, inhysingar, soldater, gesäller och pigor. Förfalskning var ett allvarligt brott och straffades hårt med prygel, fängelse på vatten och bröd eller t.o.m. dödsstraff. Kirsi Vainio-Korhonen och Mikael Korhonen problematiserar förfalskningsbrotten i relation till allmogens bildningsnivå.

Title: Språkliga möten kring förfalskningar i det tidiga 1800-talets Finland**Abstract ID: 415**Josefine Sjöberg¹, **Johanna Wassholm**,¹¹ *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

Under första hälften av 1800-talet var svenska fortfarande myndighetsspråket i Finland. Färdigheter i svenska språket behövdes därför för att skriva och läsa juridiska handlingar såsom prästbevis och orlovssedlar, som allmogen behövde när de ville flytta och ansöka om arbete. Eftersom majoriteten av finländarna var

finskspråkiga och skrivkunnighet fortfarande var sällsynt, skapades förfalskade dokument oftast i möten mellan människor som behärskade olika nivåer av färdigheter i skrivande på svenska och som ofta hade olika språklig, social och geografisk bakgrund. Även läsandet och användandet av förfalskningarna skedde i möten mellan människor med olika språkliga färdigheter. Förfalskningsfallen visar på olika vardagliga situationer under allmogens arbetsvandringar där människor med olika språkliga bakgrunder använde sina varierade kunskaper i svenska.

Presentationen behandlar hur vardaglig användning av språket framkommer i möten mellan de människor som på olika sätt var involverade i förfalskningsfallen. I hurdana kontexter blev språkliga färdigheter aktuella i de möten som ägde rum kring förfalskningarna? Hur framkommer de varierande språkliga resurser som olika människor besatte i förfalskningsfallen? Hur användes färdigheter i det svenska språket i skrivandet och läsandet av förfalskningar? På vilket sätt fungerade språkliga färdigheter som möjlighet och hinder i förfalskningsfallen?

Title: Förfalskningspraktiker och penningpraktiker i det tidigmoderna Sverige

Abstract ID: 416

Christopher Pihl¹,

¹ *Södertörn University, Sweden*

Under 1700-talets första hälft blev sedlar ett allt vanligare betalningsmedel även bland de bredare folklagen i Sverige. Genom begreppen penningpraktik och monetär litteracitet diskuterar detta paper hur bredare folklager hanterade de utmaningar och möjligheter denna förändring innebar. Tidigare forskning har pekat på de källmässiga utmaningar som finns att för äldre perioder komma åt en penninganvändning på en praktisk nivå. I detta paper presenteras dock en möjlig lösning. För att komma åt befolkningens penningpraktiker och monetära litteracitet används förfalskningsfall som förser oss med ingående beskrivningar av bredare folklagers föreställningar och praktiker. Vilka kunskaper och färdigheter krävdes för att avkoda en sedel? Och vad säger sedelförfalskningar om användningen av och uppfattningar om sedlar?

Title: Domstolarna och falsifikatens materialitet i början av 1800-talets Finland

Abstract ID: 417

Taina Saarenpää¹,

¹ *University of Turku, Finland*

Taina Saarenpää fokuserar dels på falsifikat som föremål, dels på handskriftskulturen i början av 1800-talet. De förfalskade dokumenten är unika historiska lämningar, konkreta föremål som kan jämföras med arkeologiska fynd. De kan studeras och avläsas på samma sätt i nutid som då de skapades. Att blottlägga och fördöma falsifikat har alltid varit centralt för att hålla tilltron till handskriftens ofelbara beviskraft till olika företeelser orubbad. Viktiga kännetecken vid avslöjandet av falsifikat var förutom språket, formen och kontexten även den materiella helheten och utseendet.

Taina Saarenpää studerar förfalskningar som föremål och som en del av den juridiska dokumentkulturen i början av 1800-talets Finland. Hon frågar vilka fysiska drag visar att handlingarna är förfalskade? Hur förskaffade sig förfalskarna nödvändiga material och verktyg? Hur utmanar falsifikaten grundtanken om arkivens och handskriftskulturens juridiska integritet?

Session: S-07-10 - Medical History and Science**Date: 14-08-2025 - 16:30 - 18:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Charting the boundaries of a new medical treatment – knowledge circulation about insulin in the Finnish press, 1922–1923**Abstract ID: 244**Johanna Rehn¹,¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

This paper explores how the still developing boundaries of insulin treatment were discussed in the Finnish press during 1922–1923. It also looks at the circulation of knowledge in relation to these discussions. The introduction of insulin treatment around the world following its discovery in 1921–1922 brought with it both a reconfiguration of diabetes care and an investigation of the limits of this new treatment. In reporting on the new discovery, Finnish newspapers also touched on these questions. Based on an analysis of digitised Finnish newspapers that mention insulin, I argue that newspapers published in Swedish engaged more in conversations about the boundaries of insulin treatment than their Finnish-language counterparts and that this is emblematic of a broader trend regarding the circulation of knowledge about insulin in the Finnish press, which saw Swedish-language newspapers engage more with both the topic and news about it published elsewhere in the Nordics.

Title: International influences and national assertiveness in Swedish tuberculosis vaccination-policy ca 1927–1951**Abstract ID: 331**Sofia Koernig¹,¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

This paper addresses a current topic of discussion during and in the aftermath of recent years Covid-19 pandemic: what makes different countries choose so different strategies in fighting a disease when they all have access to the same international state of knowledge? It does so by using the historical example of the Swedish reception of the BCG vaccine, introduced in the 1920s but not practiced in large scale until the early 1940s. During this time and afterward, the vaccine was the subject of constant scientific debate regarding its safety and effectiveness, both in

Sweden and internationally. Only a few years after the introduction of national mass vaccinations, Sweden became part of a Scandinavian and UN-funded mass vaccination initiative – the International Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign (ITC).

**Session: S-07-11 - Animals in Modern Nordic History, PART II:
Animals in war and war preparations****Date: 14-08-2025 - 16:30 - 18:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: To think with the animals: human-animal relations in military history**Abstract ID: 369**Martina Berggren¹,¹ *Swedish Defence University, Sweden*

Throughout history, animals have figured prominently in both the material foundations and the ideological underpinnings of human societies. Many important studies have appeared in the last few decades (mostly in North America and England) that recognize and address the roles of animals—as food, companions, and cultural representations—in historical writing. *How* we deal with those animals thus warrants serious discussion. This paper explores the methodological and theoretical implications of involving animals in the study of the past. Drawing on experiences from my ongoing dissertation about human-animal relations in war and war preparations, questions of agency, point of view, and the nature of primary sources are discussed. Following the work of Erica Fudge and Chris Pearson, three approaches are suggested for how we might depict animals as historical agents: by paying attention to anthropomorphic statements, ascribing of subjectivity, and animal resistance. Thinking about these questions within the frame of historiography has the potential to offer new perspectives on why and how we should write the history of animals.

Title: From fields and forests to frontier: Finnish civilian horses and their experiences in the Second World War**Abstract ID: 370**Anna Karhila¹,¹ *Tampere University, Finland*

Finland was one of the countries that relayed most heavily on horses during WWII. The human-horse connections in the war is studied in doctoral thesis. There is also couple of popular book of Finnish horses in the war and few articles and pro gradus

about wartime veterinary. We lack still research about wartime horses, specially from the point of view of the horses. In my doctoral thesis I'm going to fill that void.

The basis for my study is the fact that ninety percent of horses Finnish forces used was taken from civilian life. I'll study how horses were chosen and how needs of agriculture and horse breeding were taken into account during the process. Main part of my study goes deeper in the destinies and experiences horses had in the war. Through the war time material, for example horse catalogues, lists of death and wounded horses and horse carts I will gather an insight on how civilian horses adapted to extreme and foreign conditions of the war, what kind of reactions horses showed and how horses managed or didn't manage go through the wartime. Along documents I'll use the collections of stories of horses in the war.

Title: The entangled history of humans and cattle in war-waging Finland, 1939–1944/45

Abstract ID: 372

Tiina Kinnunen¹, Matti Salo¹

¹ *University of Oulu, Finland*

From 1939 to 1945, Finland engaged in three conflicts: the Winter War and the Continuation War against the Soviet Union, and the Lapland War against Nazi Germany. This period is extensively studied, and in recent decades increasingly under new military history perspectives that include social and cultural dimensions, enriching our understanding of civilian experiences.

Recent scholarship is increasingly focusing on the human-animal relationship, prompting a reevaluation of Finland's World War II history. Our research highlights the overlooked role of cattle during the war, contrasting with the more recognized use of horses in combat. This focus is vital as cattle raising was a significant part of agrarian Finland's every-day life and economy, largely managed by women and children.

Iconic WWII photographs often depict young people herding cattle to safety from Karelian and Lapland areas. Our paper investigates this aspect through two approaches: analyzing contemporary wartime documents, media coverage included, on cattle transportation and evaluating personal recollections from that period. Through this study, we aim to shed light on the human-animal bond in wartime and its implications on historical understanding.

Session: S-07-12 - Deindustrialization in the Nordics – historical experiences and cultural heritage**Date: 14-08-2025 - 16:30 - 18:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: “The chance of me getting a new job here is very small”: gender, place and future in the media coverage of Swedish clothing industry 1970–1990**Abstract ID: 627**Johanna Overud¹,¹ *Umeå university, Sweden*

This paper is an analysis of media discourses in two shutdown cases in the Swedish clothing industry during the 1970s, YFA in Norrköping and Algots Nord in Skellefteå. Adjustment problems for those affected in the clothing industry were assumed to be greater than in other industries, due to a higher average age and a large proportion of female workforce. Newspaper, radio, and television media had started playing an important role in reporting on the successes and failures of industrial ventures at the time. The overall purpose of this presentation is to examine how (de-) industrialization processes are mediated and legitimated, with a focus on female workers. What ideas about gender, place, age, and periphery shape localization policy media portrayals in the 1970s?

Title: Minority experiences of de-industrialization in post-war Swedish-speaking Finland**Abstract ID: 628**Matias Kaihovirta¹, **Christoffer Holm**,¹¹ *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

This presentation explores how de-industrialization have affected the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland in the post-war period. How are identity aspects related to class, language and gender affected when structures change? And what happens when industries are re-established? Our research focuses on two bilingual de-industrializing communities in south-western Finland, with a long history of heavy industry. From the perspective of the history of experiences, we present how emotions, memories, and identities influence experiences of industrialization, which in turn find expression in nostalgia, glorification, deliberate ignoring, or reshaped

narratives. Our presentation also shows how communities reacts towards new industry based on the experiences from previous structural transformation processes.

Title: The local struggle for survival: municipalities and jobs in the age of deindustrialisation

Abstract ID: 629

Stefan Backius¹, **Åsa Melin**¹

¹ *Karlstad University, Sweden*

Following the steel crisis of the 1970s, many Swedish industrial communities underwent major transformations in the 1980s and 1990s. The restructuring of the steel industry led to significant deindustrialisation in the industrial communities of central Sweden. For communities heavily dependent on large industrial enterprises, deindustrialisation posed fundamental economic and social challenges for local communities and their residents. These challenges also led to a redefinition of the towns identities as iron and steel towns, with stable, dominant companies and secure, lifelong jobs for generations of men. In these redefinitions, the old masculinities were less viable.

The emerging local labour and economic policies of the 1980s and 1990s became crucial to the survival of the community. Although this area of intervention became the concern of all affected municipalities, the strategies and directions of action took different paths. This presentation will explore how some mill towns (bruksorter) in the formerly thriving industrial belt of Bergslagen have dealt with the sudden and challenging closures or downsizing of factories, with impoverishment, unemployment and out-migration as scenarios to be avoided or at least managed.

**Session: S-07-13 - Developing new rural domesticities:
Female rural household education and domestic science for
women in the Nordic countries, 1860–1960**

Date: 14-08-2025 - 16:30 - 18:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Uplifting the kindred people: National ideologies, gender and Karelian refugee youth in Finnish folk high schools, 1919–1929

Abstract ID: 513

Seija Maria Hannele Jalagin ^{1, 2, 3},

¹ *University of Oulu, Finland*

² *Volda University College, Norway*

³ *Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway*

In the aftermath of the Russian revolution, 20,000 refugees, considered as kindred people to the Finns, fled to Finland in 1918–1922. By 1929 ca. one thousand young refugees had studied in Finnish folk high schools to boost their potential for further studies or to acquire vocational training. In general, the schooling aimed to provide Karelian youth with abilities they could utilize for cultivating the Karelian society after the expected fall of the Bolshevik regime. This paper studies the theoretical and practical education of refugee women. Special focus is on the relationship between gender and nationalism, particularly the idea of Greater Finland, including the common cultural and national identity of Finland and Russian Karelia. The research material consists of archival documents and commemorative publications of Lahti folk high school that enable analysis of how an urban educational institution addressed rural women and the influence of education on their life courses.

Title: Female modernization agents and Home Economics in rural Norway, ca. 1910-1960

Abstract ID: 514

Inger Marie Okkenhaug ¹,

¹ *Volda University College, Norway*

In 1908, the Norwegian Agricultural Ministry established a school for educating home economics teachers, at *Stabæk*, outside Oslo. This establishment was part of the the

newly independent Norway's political program, that included improving and modernizing living conditions in rural Norway. This was to be achieved through educating rural women in home economics and farm work.

This presentation will look at rural female “modernization agents” who moved from the countryside to attend *Stabæk* and then relocated to the periphery to transfer (state authorized) education and knowledge. By using biographical examples from a home economics school in rural mid-Norway, *Namdal husmorskole*, established in 1923, the paper examines in what ways the state's ideology was interpreted and implemented locally; to what extent did regional conditions influence and transform the state's notion of a modern, rural Norway?

Title: Rural household education to women: exploring the changing roles of household textiles in early 20th century Sweden

Abstract ID: 516

Malin Gregersen¹,

¹ *Linnaeus University, Sweden*

In Sweden, rural domestic education for women was offered in different forms from the mid-19th century. Included in the teaching was education in household textiles and handicraft. Household crafts provide an interesting focus of study since their importance to household economics, cultural and national identity and wellbeing, changed over time. With help of biographical examples from three schools where textile education held a prominent position (Tollarp lanthushållsskola, 1879–1997, and Bräkne-Hoby lanthushållsskola, 1918–, in Skåne and Birka lanthushållsskola, 1917–1945, in Jämtland) this paper explores the roles of household textile education to rural women, focusing in particular on the relations between gender, professionalization and cultural and national identity.

Title: A Home of One's Own: The Female Homestead as Eugenic and Emancipatory Measure in Early 20th-Century Sweden

Abstract ID: 224

Ingrid Lyberg¹,

¹ *Örebro University, Sweden*

For early-twentieth century feminists who wanted to traverse the border between the domestic and the public sphere, a common rhetorical strategy was to describe greater society as a home, thus legitimating the presence of women there. Frances

Wachtmeister, an aristocratic women's rights campaigner from Sweden, instead envisaged a series of independent women embedding homes into society, a model which she described in a 1904 tract entitled "Eget hem: de ogifta kvinnornas egnahemsfråga". She imagined these single households having a eugenic effect on local communities, thus improving the health of the nation and increasing productivity. In so doing Wachtmeister, who constructed her model as part of her critique of marriage legislation, breached not just the public-private divide, but the conventions for what a single woman was able to do. What significance did this have for the women's movement?

Session: S-08-03 - Vikingisms: A Public Viking Research Session**Date: 15-08-2025 - 09:00 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Viking Re-enactment in Northern Europe, c 1960-2025**Abstract ID: 354**Stefan Nyzell¹,¹ *Malmö universitet, Sweden*

The image of the Viking has had a strong presence in the public mind for a long time, in literature, movies, and TV-series, as well as comics, board games, and computer games. At least since the medieval revival in the mid-nineteenth century, the idea of the Viking has had a firm hold on the public imagination. Thus, it is hardly surprising that Viking re-enactment is one of the most popular historical settings for historical re-enactment today. All over European North, where there is at least some tangible connection to a historical past, it is possible to find that the image of the Viking is a part of a highly malleable memoryscape of public history practices. This presentation takes on the development of Viking re-enactment in Northern Europe since the 1960s, taking on top-down and bottom-up Viking re-enactments as public history projects.

Title: Whose Viking Age? The role of reconstructions and re-creations in shaping public understanding of history**Abstract ID: 355**Sara Ellis Nilsson¹,¹ *Linnéuniversitetet, Sweden*

Being surrounded by things is a familiar facet of the human condition. Thus, a foundational aspect in bringing the past to life involves the use of objects, with both tangible and intangible elements of the past being interwoven into a single object – and with it preconceptions of its usefulness for play, work, or adornment. Who owns the right to reconstruct or re-create objects and use these for interpretative or recreational purposes? Who decides what is worthy of reconstructing or re-creating for use in public history? With a particular focus on “Viking” contexts, this paper explores how the studied groups – artisans, experimental archeologists, and

reenactors – decide which artefacts are worthy of reconstruction/re-creation in historical interpretive work and how that affects the method and outcome, as well as its contribution to the overarching Viking Age memoryscape.

Title: Twilights of the Gods: Ragnarök, Comics, and the Ends of Social Formation

Abstract ID: 357

Martin Lund¹,

¹ *Malmö Universitet, Sweden*

Viking and Old Norse imaginaries aren't rooted in any single geographical space nor any specific historical time; they are "conjured in an assemblage of alternative Earthbound pasts, fictive post-apocalyptic futures, as well as inhabiting various supernatural realms, alternative universes and outer space" (Williams, 230). The idea of Ragnarök is similarly malleable. No vision of things to come – whether utopian, dystopian, or apocalyptic – is really about the future. Speculation about the end of days is about the present in which it's articulated, and the end of the world is always about the end of a world, some specific social formation that appears to be threatened or threatening to whoever prophecies about its downfall. Starting from these points of departure, this paper focuses on Ragnarök narratives in comics, aiming to both historicize them and to analyse them as popular cultural means serving socially formative ends.

Session: S-08-04 - Living on the margins: Life histories**Date: 15-08-2025 - 09:00 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Swedish seaman life in foreign port cities, 1929-1935**Abstract ID: 346**Joel Högberg¹,¹ *Malmö universitet, Sweden*

This paper is a summary of the first chapter of my coming PhD thesis. The purpose of the thesis is to study how the lifestyles of Swedish merchant seamen was perceived and handled by a variety of actors – united by vested interests in the way maritime workers behaved in their free time – in a modern period where the everyday life of working class people became an important political problem. For various spatial reasons that are discussed in the paper, I propose that seamen everyday life was especially problematic in this context. And these spatial factors became especially pronounced when Swedish seamen lived their free time abroad, on continental water fronts. The paper shows how the problem of seaman life in foreign ports was handled by a group of actors (union- and employer organizations, sailor churches and state institutions) in Sweden during the years 1929-1935.

The paper also demonstrates the emergence of a corporatist system of discipline (under state guidance) during the years in question, as a response to the “problem” of maritime leisure in foreign settings, and the role that spatial planning came to play in this system, as a tool for social control.

Title: Life histories of people with disabilities: Archival facts and literary fiction from 19th-century northern Sweden**Abstract ID: 187**Catharina Andersson¹, Lotta Vikström¹, Erling Häggström Gunfridsson¹,
Josefine Wälivaara¹¹ *Umeå university, Sweden*

This paper proposal aims to extend the poor knowledge on how disability has shaped people’s life in history by combining facts from primary sources with fiction literature from the 19th century. First, using Swedish parish registers that not only

report individual-level data from cradle to grave but also on impairments, we can reconstruct complete life histories of c. 400 people with disability. This enables us to identify and group their actual experiences of disability across life and by type (mental, physical, sensory) relative to gender and social relationships. Second, we make use of Swedish fiction literature from the 1800s depicting disability or characters having it, to trace socio-cultural perceptions of disability and what was considered as functional or not. This helps understand how disability was viewed from normative notions and in relation to facts on disabled people drawn from primary sources. Third, we construct a collective biography of them by mixing quantitative analysis (descriptive statistics, sequence analysis) with qualitative techniques (narratives, storytelling, cultural analysis). The results yield interest across different history fields in recognizing both agency and dependency in an under-researched group as disabled people, and the role of social network in their lives.

Session: S-08-06 - National Self-Perception in Nordic Minorities in the Post-War Period**Date: 15-08-2025 - 09:00 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: A Vanishing People? Perceptions and Politics on the Demographical Decline of the Finland-Swedish Minority in the Post-war Period**Abstract ID: 528**Mats Wickström¹,¹ *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

The post-war era saw a rapid decline in both the percentage of Swedish speakers in Finland and their cultural and political influence. This development that brought about a sentiment of existential crises as well as bouts of moral panic among parts of the Swedish-speaking population, whose minority nationalist movement had defined as the Swedish nationality (nation) of Finland and coined the ethnonym Finland-Swedes as moniker for the Swedish-speakers. The Finland-Swedish minority nationalists fiercely resisted Finnicization in the inter-war period and were deeply concerned when new research in the early post-war years revealed that Finland-Swedes were in demographical decline due to falling fertility rates, emigration to Sweden, and increasing intermarriages with Finnish-speakers. This paper explores the changing conceptualisation and politicisation of the triple-threat, as well as perceptions on the minority and modernization that viewed the supposed passing of the Finland-Swedes as inevitable and in some ways emancipatory.

Title: Intra-minority Welfare in the Post-war Period: Promoting the Finland-Swedish Minority through Private and Public Welfare Solutions**Abstract ID: 529**Hanna Lindberg¹,¹ *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

This paper examines private and public welfare catering to the Finland-Swedish minority in the post-war period. The decades following the Second World War saw a rapid growth of welfare states in the Nordic countries, creating a comprehensive system of social security. As an officially bilingual country, welfare in Finland was meant to be distributed equally to Finnish- and Swedish speakers in their respective

mother tongues. In reality, welfare measures for the geographically scattered Finland-Swedish minority were a reoccurring matter of concern and a locus of dissatisfaction. On the other hand, a plethora of private welfare organizations specifically addressing the needs of the minority were founded throughout the 20th century and worked to secure the minority's future and wellbeing. The paper examines negotiations between public and private solutions and how experts within the field of social policy argued for the need of different solutions. Special focus is given to the shift from eugenic measures to inclusive policies directed to vulnerable segments of the minority, especially disabled people, which reflected a changing self-perception of Finland-Swedishness as well as disabled people's position in society.

Title: Loved to death? The Danish Minority and the Implications of a Changing Relationship to the German Majority

Abstract ID: 530

Rejhan Bosnjak¹,

¹ *Dansk Centralbibliotek for Sydslesvig, Germany*

The self-perception of the Danish minority changed during the 1970s as the relationship between the minority and the German society changed in nature and started developing towards an increasing relaxation. The minority opened largely toward the surrounding society, and there was an approximation between minority and majority. This interaction led to the fact that numerous people from the German society felt themselves, to a higher degree, drawn toward the minority and chose, based on diversified reasons, to become a part of the Danish community. This new context has caused vital alterations in the processes of identification and self-perception within the Danish minority. The preferential and dynamic elements in identity formations has obliterated the clear-cut boundaries between minority and majority, and instead created fluid (identity) boundaries where one moves in and out of the different spheres. This paper will explain the development of the relationship between the Danish Minority and the German majority. Furthermore, it examines the consequences and perspectives this development has on the self-perception of the Danish minority.

Session: S-08-07 - Traversing Nordic Borders: Deportation and Transport

Date: 15-08-2025 - 09:00 - 10:30

Abstract(s):

Title: Contested agency: Forced displacement experiences of Lapland War evacuees (1944–1945) and contemporary refugees

Abstract ID: 311

Saara Intonen¹,

¹ *University of Oulu, Finland*

This paper draws from my research on experiences of forced displacement by the Lapland War (1944-1945) evacuees to Sweden and other regions in Finland and contemporary refugees in Finland. They crossed international and internal borders between and within nation-states. In this paper the focus is on their negotiations for recognition as equal and autonomous actors during forced migration and resettlement. The data consists of evacuees' written narratives from the 1950s-1970s and thematic interviews of refugees that I conducted in 2021-2023. These oral histories enable comparative analysis of the temporality and dynamics of displacement and emplacement. The paper seeks to answer the call by Marfleet (2007) and Gatrell (2016) to investigate forced migration as a lived experience and the viewpoints and agency of the refugees themselves. It also adds to the knowledge of forced migrations in the Nordic countries, which have often been marginalized in historical research.

Title: Deportation as a historical blind spot in the Nordic countries

Abstract ID: 28

Miika Tervonen¹, Matti Välimäki¹,

¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

We examine deportation – i.e., forced removal of noncitizens from a state territory – as a historiographical blind spot in the Nordic countries. We argue that lack of research hinges on administrative, archival and historiographical silences. As unwanted non-citizens have been physically removed from the nation-state's territory, their experiences and narratives have also been removed, producing a blind spot on a baseline element of the state's coercive power. Through Nordic histories,

we examine overlapping logics of deportation enabling longitudinal study: 1) socio-economic gatekeeping; 2) deportations as foreign policy tool; 3) cultural/racial gatekeeping; and 4) guarding the state's administrative power. We suggest ways to move beyond silences, including the use of oral history materials and reading administrative sources 'against the grain'. More broadly, we call for an epistemological shift from a nation-centric approach that has bypassed those whom the state has disposed itself of.

Title: From Baltic to Nordic Integration. Nordic Transport Cooperation after the First World War

Abstract ID: 46

Martin Eriksson¹,

¹ *Umeå university, Sweden*

From Baltic to Nordic Integration. Nordic Transport Cooperation after the First World War

My paper deals with the 1920 Swedish-Finnish Transport Commission as an arena for early Nordic transport integration through the development of East-West links between Finland, Sweden and Norway. While the Commission was tasked to improve the pre-1914 links over the Baltic Sea, this part of the agenda was abolished due to the geopolitical changes related to events during the First World War which meant that the desired routes to Petrograd in Russia were blocked. Instead, the Commission focused on improving East-West routes integrating rail transport from Norway to Sweden with the expanding ferry traffic between Sweden and Finland. This established the same type of coordination within inter-sectoral networks which characterized the "golden age" of Nordic cooperation in the post-war period.

Title: From "Anomaly" to "Lost Opportunity" in Migration Policy: Sweden's 1989 Lucia Day Decision and its Evolving Depictions

Abstract ID: 605

Mathias Hatleskog Tjønn¹,

¹ *University of Oslo, Norway*

With the 1989 Lucia Day Decision, Sweden curtailed the entrance of all asylum seekers, after 5000 Turkish-minority Bulgarians seeking asylum had arrived in the preceding months. This was arguably the first restrictive turn in post-1945 Swedish

migration policy history, happening in a political climate of crisis. Met with heavy criticism in the media and from civil society organizations, the decision was appealed in 1991. However, it is increasingly referred to in recent public discussions on Swedish migration policy, notably in the wake of the 2015-16 “Migration Crisis” and the so-called “paradigm shift” towards more restrictive policy announced in 2023. The Lucia Day Decision is a prism through which to critically investigate the history behind the Decision itself, while also allowing for a reappraisal of the political evolution in Sweden’s migration policy and societal self-understanding, mirrored in the changing depictions and meanings later invested in the Decision.

Session: S-08-08 - Reordering Boundaries and Reimagining Sovereignty in the North, 1850–1916**Date: 15-08-2025 - 09:00 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Northern borders**Abstract ID: 743**Pór Marteinnsson¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

After the fragmentation of the Danish state at the end of royal absolute power in 1849, the three nations in the North Atlantic, Iceland, Faroe Island and Greenland, gradually developed in three distinctly different ways regarding modern national state formation. The next 25 years after the end of royal absolute power over the Danish state, the Icelandic Althing disputed with Danish authorities on if, and how Iceland should be redefined within the new state. At the end of the Second Schleswig War in 1864, the Danish state agreed to implement a special constitution for Iceland. The new constitution that gave Althingi a new legislative powers over its own defined affairs and laid the foundations for the formation of a new Icelandic state within Denmark. This foundation became a fundamental building block in the formation of the Icelandic state 40 years later. This paper will shed light on the reasons the Danish government decided to grant the Iceland Althingi these constitutional changes and what kind of transfer of sovereignty took place with the new laws.

Title: The Icelander in the Angloworld: Race and rethinking international order in fin de siècle High North**Abstract ID: 741**Sveinn Máni Jóhannesson¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

This paper focuses on a somewhat unlikely a participant in the intellectual reshaping of international order during the 'global industrial period' at the end of the nineteenth century: the Icelandic newspaper editor Jón Ólafsson (1850-1916). A transatlantic figure who emigrated twice to the United States and Canada, the paper argues that Ólafsson introduced into a transnational Icelandic setting — spanning Icelandic-speaking communities in Canada, the United States, and Iceland proper — the ideas

behind what scholars such as Duncan Bell have termed ‘the Angloworld’: the fin de siècle discourse of imperial union between the United States and the British Empire, grounded in a shared Anglo-Saxon racial identity. While scholars have shown that this debate drew participants from across the realms of Anglo-Saxon polity, they have not examined how its core tenets were taken up and internationalised beyond its boundaries. This paper uses Ólafsson’s writings as a lens for exploring the diffusion of Anglo-Saxonist thought beyond the Angloworld itself. Ólafsson embedded Anglo-Saxonist thinking within a broader Darwinian narrative of global transformation. Predicting the end of the nation-state in favour of large racialised empires, Ólafsson sought to carve out a privileged place for Iceland and the Nordic nations within a reconfigured international order by expanding the imagined boundaries of the Anglo-Saxon world on the grounds of Teutonic whiteness.

Session: S-08-09 - Developments of Agriculture and Fishing policies in the 18th century

Date: 15-08-2025 - 09:00 - 10:30

Abstract(s):

Title: The Icelandic Census of Livestock 1703: Women and their ownership

Abstract ID: 332

Ragnhildur Anna Kjartansdóttir¹,

¹ *National Archives of Iceland, Iceland*

In the beginning of the 18th century Árni Magnússon and Páll Vídalín were commissioned by the Danish Crown to assess the conditions in Iceland and make suggestions for improvement. One of the products from that work was the Census of Livestock from 1703. It gives information of the livestocks that were on each farm, both owned by the farmer and others that had livestocks on his farm. This paper will emphasize the ownership of women's livestocks in regard to their social status.

Title: Livestock rearing and the agricultural revolution in Early Modern Northern Sweden

Abstract ID: 202

Martin Skoglund¹,

¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

Livestock rearing remains understudied within history, especially from a quantitative perspective. While extensive data exists regarding crop production in Sweden during the Early Modern Period, mainly based on tithes, there are few such data on livestock production. Considering the near-ubiquity of the mixed farming system, where animal husbandry and crop cultivation were mutually dependent, during this period, the absence of such data is notable. Here, a study using more than 29 000 farm level tithe observations from northern Sweden spanning the period ca 1770–1840 is presented. These data are complemented with early agrometeorological observations and historical agro-phenological data to not only give a detailed picture of livestock production during the peak of the agricultural revolution in northern Sweden, but also the various factors that influenced livestock production over time. For example, the study considers the degree of dependence of livestock rearing on

crop cultivation, and whether a heavy reliance on animal husbandry could mitigate against the socio-economic and demographic consequences of harvest failures.

Title: A Shift of Subsidy Policy for the Fishing Industry in Mid-Eighteenth-Century Sweden

Abstract ID: 185

Takehiro Saito¹,

¹ *Kurume University, Japan*

This study clarifies policy changes in fishing industry promotion subsidies in Sweden during the mid-eighteenth century. In the late 1740s, a shoal of herring appeared unexpectedly in the waters near Bohuslän, a coastal area in the western part of Sweden. In the mid-eighteenth century, the Swedish fishing industry remained in its infancy due to a lack of funds, knowledge, and workforce. The government implemented a subsidy policy to encourage growth and progress in this nascent industry. While previous research has touched on the funds injected into the industry, how the government secured the necessary financial resources, allocated the budget, and provided subsidies to fishermen remains largely unexplored. This presentation takes a closer look at the implementation of this subsidy policy in the 1750s and 1760s to shed light on the shift in support from funding the North Sea fishery to the Bohuslän fishery.

Session: S-08-10 - Responses to Fascism in the Nordic countries in the interwar period**Date: 15-08-2025 - 09:00 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: The transnational exchange of anti-fascist strategies**Abstract ID: 404**Kristina Krake¹,¹ *University of Amsterdam, Netherlands*

This paper discusses the Scandinavian political response to fascism in the interwar period. This is done by applying a comparative and transnational perspective on the short-term and long-term anti-fascist strategies, initiated by the social democratic parties and governments. Although, fascism never became a widespread phenomenon in the three Scandinavian countries, Sweden, Denmark and Norway, fascist movements were certainly not ignored. Contrary, the paper shows that the politicians were very attentive to fascism and alike, and that they adopted varied legislative measures to curtail its growth. Moreover, the paper demonstrates that the fight against fascism was not only confined to national arenas, but that ideas were exchanged across borders on how to make democracy resilient to anti-democratic forces.

Title: Fighting Nazis or Helping Refugees? Anti-fascist Women in Interwar Iceland**Abstract ID: 403**Pontus Järvstad¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

This paper explores anti-fascism in Iceland through the experiences of two communists, Katrín Thoroddsen (1896-1970) and Indíana Garibaldadóttir (1904-1975). Thoroddsen was the first female pediatrician in Iceland and pleaded with the Icelandic government to receive Jewish children fleeing the Nazis. Garibaldadóttir was a working-class militant who fought the police for the wellbeing of workers in Reykjavík. This militancy translated into anti-fascism as she participated in shutting down meetings of Icelandic Nazis. The engagements of these two women can be seen as reflected in contemporary anti-fascist politics. Politics which emphasize both

countering fascist movements and acting in solidarity with refugees. The history of fascist organizations in interwar Iceland is short.

Title: Helping political refugees in Sweden during the 1930s – with or without an antifascist framing

Abstract ID: 401

Pär Frohnert¹,

¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

Socialist and Communist refugees from Nazi Germany to some extent also fled to Sweden. As political refugees, with some legal possibilities for the right of abode, they had an advantage over Jewish refugees. A few thousand were acknowledged. However, as there was no state support, Social Democrats had to rely on aid from the Labour Movement Relief, and Communists from the Cominternorganisation the Red Aid. This refugee aid was an expression of antifascism, but the term antifascism as such the Communists succeeded to lay hands on as the Social Democratic government abstained from creating an antifascist public opinion in order to avoid tensions with Germany. As Comintern in 1928 proclaimed the ultra-left line, the stance against Social Democrats hardened and collaboration became impossible, also after the popular front from 1935. As a result, the two refugee aid organisations remained in a constant political conflict.

Title: Swedish Anti-Fascist Responses to the Antisemitic Propaganda of Einar Åberg

Abstract ID: 402

Olof Bortz¹,

¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

Einar Åberg (1890–1970) emerged as an anti-Jewish propagandist in the Swedish Antisemitic, fascist and National Socialist milieu during the interwar period. His career in anti-Jewish propaganda spanned over three decades, from the early 1930s to the mid 1960s. At first, Åberg's activities was limited to Sweden and Stockholm. After the Second World War, he took his anti-Jewish material to the world stage by translating it from Swedish to a number of different languages and sending it literally across the globe. What is noteworthy about Åberg is not only the global impact of his activities in the late 1940s but also the international and Swedish reactions, most notably Sweden's law against racial incitement enacted in 1948 and for a long time known as Lex Åberg. In this presentation I focus on the responses of the Swedish

left during the 1930s and 1940s. In different ways, mainly through the press but also in the streets of Stockholm, Swedish anti-fascists were at the vanguard in reacting to Åberg and his anti-Jewish propaganda, well before the Swedish state sprang into action.

Session: S-08-11 - Lutheran Masculinities in Early Modern Germany and Sweden**Date: 15-08-2025 - 09:00 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Project "Lutheran Masculinities 1517–1937"**Abstract ID: 498**Sini Mikkola¹,¹ *University of Eastern Finland, Finland*

The session will be opened with a brief presentation by the chair of the project *Lutheran Masculinities 1517–1937*, which was launched in autumn 2024.

Title: Mirrors for Prudent Princes and Rational Rulers. Martin Luther on Masculinity and Leadership**Abstract ID: 495**Tapio Leinonen¹,¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

This paper examines the masculinity ideals Luther presents in his biblical expositions dedicated to Christian rulers. Luther practiced the medieval custom of *Fürstenspiegel*, setting mirrors for Princes, Dukes, and Bishops to learn ideal and preferred leadership practices. Through the prefaces of Luther's commentary on Virgin Mary's Canticle, *Magnificat* (1521), and the Lectures on the Fifth Book of Moses, *Deuteronomy* (1525), the paper analyzes what kind of biblical images Luther poses as preferable for rulers, focusing on Luther's use of language and concepts referring to masculinity and gender ideals. The paper suggests that Luther's biblical expositions of the figures of both Mary and Moses provided mirrors for male rulers, promoting obedience to God's Word, modesty, prudence, and fairness. Often, but not always, they aligned with Early Modern gender ideals.

Title: Clergymen as husbands and representations of masculinity in women's funeral biographies (ca. 1650–1750)

Abstract ID: 496

Miia Kuha¹,

¹ *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

This paper uses printed funeral biographies on Lutheran pastors' wives from the Swedish realm, including Finland, to discuss representations of clergymen as husbands and analyse conceptions of masculinity in the late 17th and early 18th century. In their biographies, clergymen's wives were often described as calm, sensible and pragmatic figures who were able to support their husbands practically and emotionally even on their own deathbed. In women's biographies, the experience of marriage was portrayed from a male perspective. The author of the funeral sermon – a married clergyman himself – usually emphasized the magnitude of the loss the husband had experienced, thus legitimizing his grief, and highlighting the important role of the wife in the clerical household. The paper suggests that instead of just promoting male authority, women's biographies reflect a more varied understanding of masculinity in the early modern Lutheran context.

Session: S-08-12 - Early Modern and Modern Cultural and Political History**Date: 15-08-2025 - 09:00 - 10:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: The Business of War in Early Modern Sweden**Abstract ID: 308**Jaakko Björklund¹,¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

Military entrepreneurship played a significant role in the supply, financing and conduct of warfare in the early modern period. As the scale and scope of warfare increased, fledgling states found themselves resorting to private enterprisers to provide the men, money, provisions, and administrative competence to prosecute these new, larger wars. Military entrepreneurs have traditionally been dismissed as mere mercenaries - immoral, inefficient and untrustworthy - while the privatization of military functions has been seen as a temporary stage on the path towards the strong nation state and modernity.

In recent years, these ingrained interpretations have come under revision. Recent studies have shown that military entrepreneurship was significantly more diverse and prevalent than previously thought, and in the early modern economy an efficient means of resource mobilization. This presentation outlines the current state of research and presents the results of several new studies reassessing private military entrepreneurship in early modern Sweden.

Title: When the Crown built roads – Three road construction projects in Upplands län, Sweden 1660-1672**Abstract ID: 238**Lisa-Maria Cambladh¹,¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

During a ten-year period in the 1660's three major road constructions took place in Upplands län, the region closest to Stockholm. These projects required land and labour to be completed. The land closest to Stockholm was almost completely in the hands of the landed gentry, including members of the government. On several instances the building of the roads required both members of the government and

the landed gentry to give up land. The labour was to be provided by the peasantry, allmogen, but a bone of contention was whether this included the tenant farmers of the gentry. The road construction projects came to highlight areas – like public or private, crown or gentry and who was part of allmogen – where the borders of society were blurred. This paper intends to explore those blurred borders.

Title: Crafting Swedish Diplomacy: Social Fabric and Legislative Foundations, 1680-1750

Abstract ID: 21

Emma Forsberg¹,

¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

In the crucible of the early modern era, Swedish diplomacy was shaped by an interplay of diplomatic legislative edicts and the nuanced social tapestry of its practitioners. This paper – a culminating presentation of the authors PhD thesis – illuminates this dynamic period, charting the influential legislative milestones and the social interplay that defined Swedish diplomatic endeavors. Utilizing digital prosopography, it dissects the lives of Swedish diplomats from 1680 to 1750, revealing how the mesh of legislative dictates, societal norms, and familial networks crafted the foundation of modern Swedish diplomatic conduct. The study delineates this epoch as pivotal, setting precedents in diplomatic legislation and practices that would resonate through the annals of Swedish foreign policy. The paper aims to present the most pivotal results found, and how these results further illuminate the development and strategies utilized by Swedish diplomatic actors during this foundational period.

Session: S-09-01 - Entangled Histories of Anti-Militarism and Peace Activism in the Nordic Countries and Beyond II

Date: 15-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00

Abstract(s):

Title: Power and Pacifism: The Finnish Peace Movement's Approaches to Nuclear Energy in the 1980s

Abstract ID: 418

Hannah Yoken ¹,

¹ *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

During the 1980s the increased threat of nuclear annihilation captured the attention of individuals around the world, provoking strong emotions and leading to mass mobilisation. In Finland, the 1980s witnessed a period of active pacifist protest. For example, between 1981 and 1984 over 200,000 Finnish people participated in annual peace rallies, demanding an end to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

This paper takes this anti-nuclear momentum of the early 1980s as its starting point, but places its main focus onto a related existential threat that elicited strong emotion and responses at the time globally as well as in Finland: nuclear energy. More specifically, it explores the different ways in which nuclear energy was conceptualized, critiqued or even embraced by different factions of the Finnish pacifist movement of the 1980s, such as the Finnish Peace Committee, the Finnish Committee of 100, and the Peace Union of Finland.

Title: The Bomb Changed Everything: How the Anti-Nuclear Movement Arose out of the Anti-War Groups in Post-War Denmark

Abstract ID: 419

Aske Hennelund Nielsen ¹,

¹ *Friedrich-Alexander Universität, Germany*

With the atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, the world was shocked by the enormous destructive power of nuclear weapons. However, as the headlines of the bombings reached the anti-war and pacifist movement in post-war Denmark, the news was met with a muted response. The anti-war movement was obviously against nuclear weapons, but also considered them an extension of the horrors of war, which did not require any separate action. With the development of

the hydrogen bomb in the early 1950s, this changed radically, and a new anti-nuclear movement led by veteran pacifists divorced themselves from core tenants of the anti-war movement to gain wider support in the Danish population.

With this paper, I focus on how the anti-nuclear movement arose out of the discourse heritage of the pacifist groups of post-war Denmark and also adapted international and transnational protest actions into the Danish setting.

Title: The anti-nuclear movement vs nuclear lobby in early post-war Japan

Abstract ID: 707

Kristín Ingvarsdóttir¹,

¹ *Háskóli Íslands, Iceland*

Paradoxically, Japan started down the path toward nuclear energy just a decade after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, amidst a spike in anti-nuclear sentiment throughout the polity. This paper asks two central questions: What was the reaction of the anti-nuclear and peace movements as the Japanese government discussed – and then swiftly implemented – nuclear energy as a key pillar of Japan’s energy future? And how was the encounter between Japan’s anti-nuclear identity and the new nuclear culture? To answer these questions, the paper both consults academic studies that focus on this turning point, albeit often from an industry perspective, and presents the results of an analysis of editorials about nuclear energy in Japanese print media. The analysis is focused around two important milestones: the enactment of the Atomic Energy Basic Law in 1955 and the opening of the first commercial nuclear power plant in 1966. The paper demonstrates how the new nuclear policy was surprisingly uncontested, given Japan’s growing fear of radiation and strengthening anti-nuclear identity in this period.

Session: S-09-02 - Childhood Experiences in History**Date: 15-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Second-generation lives. Experiences of Sweden-Finnish childhood and youth**Abstract ID: 223**Tuomas Laine-Frigren¹,¹ *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Between 1950 and 1990, over 520,000 people left Finland to look for work in Sweden, making this one of the largest work-related emigrations to occur in post-war Europe. Around half of these emigrants ended up returning to Finland, and many of these returnees were children or young people. In our new project, we produce an experience-based understanding of the lives of second-generation Sweden Finns during their childhood and youth as they occurred within this 40-year period. The project explores how children and young people faced the everyday challenges of having to adapt to a new language, country, and social relations, with a shift from adult perspectives onto the experiences of younger people themselves within and outside the immigrant family. In January 2024, a thematic writing campaign was launched in cooperation with the Finnish Literature Society and its Finnish-Swedish counterpart, The Society of Swedish Literature in Finland. The participants were invited to share their personal experiences of being children of the 'great migration' from the 1950s onwards. In this presentation, I reflect upon the first results of this writing campaign. I also discuss our more general aims in relation to existing research on child migration in the Nordic context.

Title: Traveling circus children**Abstract ID: 132**Gudmund Skjeldal¹,¹ *Norges Idrettshøgskole, Norway*

They traversed boundaries, continually. Parents and families had to seek permission from state authorities for exhibitions in various cities and countries. Traveling circus children represent a crucial, yet overlooked, part of Scandinavian circus history. Similarly, the circus culture of the 19th century is a significant, yet understudied, part of both Scandinavian sports history and children's history. In the book "Art of

Balance" (planned for publication in 2025), I trace the paths of some of these circus children in a Norwegian context and primarily Norwegian sources. I discuss how physical disciplines such as tightrope walking and equilibrism could be considered parts of an extended (performing) concept of sports before the process of sportification, as well as the ideology of amateurism, set in around 1880. Children – in age from 5 to 15 – were not *typically* at the forefront of various circus sports troops demonstrating their skills in Norwegian towns, but they were also not *exceptionally* in the front line in the first part of the 19th century.

Title: The boundaries of freedom Relationships and subjectification at The governmental education center for criminal youths at Bona 1905-1947.

Abstract ID: 276

Dennis Albertsen¹,

¹ *Malmö universitet, Sweden*

This paper analyzes the relationships between the governing and governed individuals at *The governmental education center for criminal youths at Bona 1905-1947*.^[1] In the eyes of the personnel the most important method for re-education at Bona was sincere and emotional relationships with the youths. In this paper I study the nature of these relationships: how they were initiated, maintained and what their purpose was more precisely. Theoretically the paper leans on relational pedagogy and theories of subjectification. Preliminary results suggests that the relationships were initiated and maintained by showing genuine interest in the boys' progress. The central aim being teaching the boundaries of freedom in adult life, and how to stay inside those boundaries – be they physical or mental.

Dennis ALBERTSEN Malmö university

^[1] *Statens uppfostringsanstalt för kriminella ynglingar å Bona.* (My translation)

Title: Puzzling youth: Studying and knowing youth in the early 1900s Finland

Abstract ID: 133

Lauri Julkunen¹,

¹ *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

This paper examines the 'first wave' of youth research in Finland during the 1910s and 1920s from the perspective of history of knowledge. In the early decades of the 20th century, youth became a 'puzzle' for researchers and educators to unravel. Adolescence, as a distinct stage of life beginning around the age of 15, separate

from childhood and adulthood, started to manifest in public discourse, legislation as well as knowledge production. In Finland and elsewhere in Europe, traditional knowledge gave way to empirical studies and academic attention on youth. While doctors, educators and psychologists initially conducted studies on youth, the state and civil society gradually became involved. The paper highlights case examples of early youth research within academia, the state and youth work. The presentation is linked to my post-doctoral project 'Puzzling Youth: Studying and Knowing Youth in Finland, c. 1910–1940'.

Session: S-09-03 - Transnational Ideas and Movements**Date: 15-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Hvem var de første danske vegetarer?**Abstract ID: 99**Daniel Henschen¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

Dansk vegetarisk Forening (DVF) stiftedes 1896 efter samme mønster som stort set alle europæiske vegetarforeninger siden Eduard Baltzers Deutscher Verein für naturgemäße Lebensweise (1867). Frem til anden verdenskrig var organisationen en aktiv del af den internationale vegetarbevægelse og repræsenterede i Danmark den mest radikale del af tidens livsreformbevægelse. Dette paper udforsker den organiserede danske vegetarisme, som udfoldede sig i den spændfeltet mellem den internationale og lokale virkelighed. Målet er, at tegne vegetarismen i Danmark 1896-1940 gennem DVFs medlemsprofil, geografiske spredning og centrale fokusområder – f.eks. den stort set ligelige fordeling af kvinder og mænd og medlemmernes landlige tilknytning, som tilsyneladende adskiller DVF fra de nærmeste søsterorganisationer i Tyskland og Sverige.

Title: Re-imagining the boundaries of 1848: Scandinavian Radicalism and Global Revolutions**Abstract ID: 117**Björn Johnsen (Vindemarker)¹,¹ *European University Institute, Italy*

Our historical understanding of 1848 has the last few decades transformed, from brief national (failed) upheavals to a period of parallel and synchronous revolutionary cycles, characterised by global interconnections. The shifting geographical, temporal and political boundaries of 1848 allow for previously neglected actors, spaces and politics to emerge as central components of transformative changes. This paper argues that the 1848 radical formations in Norway, Denmark and Sweden emerged, organised and framed their politics around transnational networking. Throughout a 'long 1848' radicals in Scandinavia acted out different revolutionary scripts, that were written and spread through informal and intricate transnational networks. Challenging traditional national narratives, the paper highlights how radicals drew from each

other's experiences and framed their own local struggles in connection to other revolutionary movements both in- and outside of Scandinavia.

Title: The march of Free Russia as a transnational builder of experience communities

Abstract ID: 157

Sami Suodenjoki¹,

¹ *Tampere University, Finland*

Few musical pieces have provoked as intense political passions in Finland as the march song *Free Russia (Vapaa Venäjä)*, which covered the Russian Revolution and spread virally between the World Wars. Viewed by critics as “Bolshevistic”, *Free Russia* tapped into the anti-communist and anti-Russian atmosphere of the newly independent Finland. Yet the march became highly popular among workers both in Finland and Finnish America, arousing the interest of international record industry and spreading to new performance contexts by the gramophone in the late 1920s.

This presentation explores how *Free Russia* moved across borders between Soviet Russia, Finland, and Finnish America how it tapped into the nation, exclusion, and migration as lived experiences in the interwar period. My sources include Finnish and Finnish American newspapers, police reports, and oral history. As a theoretical framework, I use the concept of “community of experience”, which refers to people, who have experienced similar things and negotiate these experiences with each other, giving them similar (but not necessarily identical) meanings. I argue that *Free Russia* participated in shaping communities of experience on many levels: among popular music consumers, leftist workers, far right supporters, and Finnish and Finnish American workers, who migrated to the Soviet Union.

Title: The Orientalization of 'Kampsport'

Abstract ID: 320

Glenn Eilif Solmoe¹,

¹ *The Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, Norway*

The term '*kampsport*' is shared between Germany and the Scandinavian countries, where it is used as a translation for terms such as 'combat sports' and 'martial arts'. However, in the 19th century the term had a much wider meaning which encompassed everything from fencing, boxing and wrestling (duels) to football matches (symbolic battles), and even swimming, sailing and hiking (battle against

nature) – all related to the German term 'kampf'. Simultaneously, it contained the British concept of 'sport', which for many represented a threat to the local physical culture known as '*idræt*'. How then did 'kampsport' come to be associated with *Asian* physical culture and spirituality and when did this discursive shift happen? What can it tell us about Scandinavian constructions of the 'Orient'? The paper follows the discursive development of the term in Norwegian newspapers and magazines from the mid-19th century through the 20th century.

Session: S-09-04 - Developments of Democracy**Date: 15-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Democratization and associations: Iceland 1874-1915**Abstract ID: 18**Hrafnkell Lárusson¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

In the years 1874–1915, Icelandic society underwent multitudinous changes which among other things appeared in an economic and social shift regarding urbanisation and democratic development. This period was characterised by increased public rights, growth in public education and more social and cultural activity, which for example manifested itself in the foundation of diverse associations and public participation in cultural events.

This lecture aims at analysing democratic development in Iceland from 1874 to 1915. The focus is on the participation and activity of the public in associations and social movements that directly or indirectly supported the promotion and development of the democracy, particularly local communities in East-Iceland. My discussion will mainly rely on Pierre Bourdieu's use of the *doxa* concept, how it shapes communities and places boundaries and guidelines upon their residents. I will also compare the development in Iceland to other Nordic countries.

Title: Crossing Boundaries: Libel Cases and the Concept of Freedom of Expression in the Late 19th Century Finnish Press**Abstract ID: 291**Satu Sorvali¹,¹ *University of Turku, Finland*

The paper addresses the concept of freedom of expression and its limitations from the perspective of newspaper readers in the Finnish press during the late 19th century. Defamation claims and libel suits arising from news and opinion pieces sent by readers were significant in the Finnish editorial and media landscape of that era. Readers held a unique position, supported by legislation allowing them to publish responses if they felt insulted by a text published in a newspaper. These, often

offensive responses did not always meet journalists' standards, yet they were compelled to publish them.

It is not a new phenomenon that some might ask, "Can anything be said anymore?" while others withdraw from discussions for fear of inappropriate comments. Today's contentious and polarized debate culture resembles the Finnish press at the end of the 19th century, where the limits of freedom of expression were tested. The paper delves into the phenomenon that was widely recognized as a major challenge to freedom of expression.

Title: Friendship Organizations as Tools for Political Influence between Finland and Germany 1919-1933

Abstract ID: 219

Tony Pyykkö¹,

¹ *University of Turku, Finland*

In this paper I'm examining the various friendship organizations between Finland and Germany in the 1920's, and how they worked and influenced the public opinion and conversation within the society. These organizations could be considered to act within the spheres of public and cultural diplomacy, and usually had members from high ranks of the Finnish and German Societies. These organizations arranged many sorts of activities from academic lectures to roundtrips in various locations and doing so could be seen to have exerted political power and influencing within the society. The Research questions are as following: What were the main objectives for these organizations? How and to what extent did they influence the political debate in Finland and in Germany? What were the main outcomes for the activities for this sort of organizations in general?

Session: S-09-05 - Biography in Nordic History**Date: 15-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Policy or politics? Taking political actions of Mauno Koivisto seriously**Abstract ID: 542**Tapio Bergholm¹,¹ *University of Eastern Finland, Finland*

Statemen biographies often concentrate on political power struggles. This approach put aside co-operation and decision-making in parliament and in government. Therefore I have looked at and analyzed the political actions of Mauno Koivisto from policy perspective.

In my presentation I will discuss, how policy approach in biography gives new insights to crucial historical developments. In the case of Koivisto e.g. into preparation of big devaluation in autumn 1967, into the making of Finnish incomes policy in years 1967-1968 and into the structural crisis of Finnish agriculture in 1969.

Title: First and Only: Tekla Hultin's Self-Identity as a Pioneering Female Journalist and Politician.**Abstract ID: 543**Reetta Hänninen¹,¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

Tekla Hultin (1864–1943) was Finland's first full-time female journalist, the first woman in the country to gain a PhD in history, the only woman present at the meetings of the Young Finnish Party and one of the earliest female members of parliament in the world. She was accustomed to being the first – and the only – woman in the cabinets and the meeting rooms.

In this paper, I will shed light on her self-identity and the way she discussed her achievements. Many of the ego documents Hultin wrote were written to be published and her diaries, for instance, reveal that she was aware of the unique nature of her career. I suggest that Tekla Hultin was actively constructing her reputation as an exceptional representative of her gender.

Title: Halfdan Mahler, 1923-2016 – a prism for understanding global health in the second half of the 20th Century**Abstract ID: 544**Niels Brimnes¹,¹ *Aarhus University , Denmark*

Halfdan Mahler, a Danish doctor and Director General of the WHO from 1973-1988, serves as an excellent protagonist for a ‘prism’-biography of global health in the second half of the 20th century. Mahler came to India in 1951 to supervise a ‘vertical’, top-down mass-vaccination campaign against tuberculosis. Twenbty years later, in the 1970s, he became a key stakeholder in the Primary Health Care strategy, which advocated ‘horizontal’ and intersectional interventions, community participation and simple technologies. In the neo-liberal 1980s, vertical intervention made a come-back, and Mahler and the WHO struggled to keep their strategy viable. While Mahler formally represented the global north, he has come down in history as a spokesman for the interests of newly de-colonized and underprivileged people in the global south.

Title: Exploring the Material Potentials of Biography**Abstract ID: 545**Leonora Lottrup Rasmussen¹,¹ *Aarhus University , Denmark*

The historical biography is an increasingly popular genre that has illuminated the lives of otherwise forgotten or overlooked women in Nordic history. However, many of these women left behind few written sources, presenting certain biographical challenges. This paper draws on concepts from material and visual culture to suggest turning to non-scriptural sources as a means to address these challenges. Through two case studies—the Danish/Swedish socialite Clara Lachmann and Laura Jacobsen, the wife of Carlsberg's founder—this paper illustrates how objects from the private sphere and family photographs can offer new perspectives on the study of past lives. Especially how these non-scriptural sources can provide valuable insights into notions of gender, class, religion, and ethnicity.

Session: S-09-06 - Contemporary cultural history and theory**Date: 15-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Not Just Banal Nationalism: Reconstructing the Finnish Nation in the Early 1990s**Abstract ID: 107**Tuomas Tepora¹, Ville_Yliaska²,¹ *Tampere University, Finland*² *University of Lapland, Finland*

The end of the Cold War and the breakthrough of neoliberalism marked a global transformation. In the Nordic countries, this was reflected in a divided debate on membership in the European Community/Union. The changes led to reflections on the transformation and meaning of national identities. The 1990s in Finland were also dominated by the deep recession and neo-patriotism that emerged from the collapse of the Soviet Union. These ruptures in the experienced linearity of time triggered a reflection on the “mental state of the nation”. In this paper we examine how the intelligentsia and contemporary critics reflected on Finland's past and envisioned the future in changing world. We argue that Michael Billig's thesis of the banal self-evidence and everydayness of nationalism in the post-World War II West as opposed to active nation-building does not apply as such to post-Cold War Finland. The nation represented not just a banal self-evident fact hidden in everyday life and common sense but became an object of very conscious and energetic study and reflection.

Title: Metrics that matter: A historical analysis of the emergence of self-tracking practices**Abstract ID: 345**Marte Knutsson¹,¹ *Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, Norway*

The smartwatch, since its inception in the early 2000s, has transformed self-tracking and health monitoring (Ajana, 2017; Crawford et al., 2015; Lupton, 2016). This paper provides a historical analysis of the smartwatch's evolution and its role in self-surveillance, through a Foucauldian perspective (Foucault, 1988, 2022). It explores the discursive conditions that enabled the rise of this practice and its shift from an

external imposition to an internalized activity. The research emphasizes the connection between smartwatch usage and health and productivity narratives. As the separation between bodies and technology diminishes, the study reveals the influence of health technology integration on our self-identity and perceptions of the body (Fox, 2017, Lupton, 2022).

Title: Constructing the Un/Educated: Social Hierarchisation in the Rise of the Swedish Post-industrial Society, c. 1968–1990

Abstract ID: 52

Carl-Filip Smedberg¹,

¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

Describing society in terms of the division between “the well-educated” and “the less uneducated” is commonplace today, as present in social science research as in policy and broader media debate. My presentation and the research project it draws from historicises this educational divide by examining how a heterogeneous array of social scientists, policy experts, politicians, journalists, and union leaders discursively constructed the division in the intersecting discussions of the future and education in Sweden between 1968 and 1990, a period coalescent with the idea that society was transitioning to a post-industrial condition. The principal fault line in such discussions was education levels, whereby a new upper class – the highly educated – would take over, while the less educated would form a new underclass. Here people’s social standing was perceived as determined by their personal capabilities. I examine the formation of this division via three empirical areas: debates about educational futures, adult education, and qualification levels of the workforce. I will moreover present theories of how this process could be understood and its role in the creation of the post-industrial knowledge society.

Title: Women and Education

Abstract ID: 711

Ning de Coninck-Smith¹,

¹ *Aarhus University, Denmark*

Between 1965 and 1975, there was a lively newspaper debate about the position of women in society. The debate was partly prompted by the establishment in 1965 of a commission on the position of women in society - and subsided to some extent with the publication of the final report in 1974. The commission prepared eight sub-reports on several topics related to women's lives and activities: institutional

coverage, family and health conditions, participation in public life and gender equality. There was also a committee on women's conditions in Greenland. The committees relied on several scientific reports from the same years on psychological and sociological gender differences. This was thus a large-scale initiative - which had been anticipated in the interwar years, but which now - partly in the light of the women's movement and the 1968 youth rebellion - unfolded in earnest.

The first of the eight sub-reports dealt with women's educational problems (Report No. 504, 1968). It testified to the importance the time attached to women's access to education. The report painted a picture of a gender-biased educational landscape, where women were in the majority in housekeeping, care and learning - while they were in the minority in vocational training, upper secondary school and, not least, higher education.

In my contribution I take an affective perspective on the debate about women and education, including their health and family life, as it appeared in reports and surveys as well as in letters to the editors of women's magazines. My focus is on the shaming of the uneducated housewife and her lazy husband in favor of the dual working educated wife and mother. As such the story about women and education ends up being a story about changing femininities and (to some degree also) changing masculinities.

Session: S-09-07 - National Culture: Borders and Memory**Date: 15-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: The bad story - national historical narrative and a wrong victim**Abstract ID: 3**Ismo Björn¹,¹ *University of Eastern Finland, Finland*

In Joensuu, Eastern Finland, on a spring night in 1918, a total of 99 soldiers executed. This historical place has never been presented to domestic or foreign tourist groups. This place is kept hidden, because in it evil cannot be externalized ethnically and ideologically to others. The guilt and victim narratives of the execution site are directly related to questions about the nature of historical knowledge and the ethics of history. The place challenges the history of one truth. It brings to light the political nature of history. Today great national historical narratives are forced to be reinterpreted due to mobility. There is an obvious need for new historical narratives, as there is a growing conflict between public memory and experiencing and belonging due to the diversification of the populations of nation states and everyday transnationalism.

Title: The Proletariat of Many Faces in Russian Karelia 1918–1922**Abstract ID: 88**Aki Aunala¹,¹ *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

After the Bolsheviks overthrew the Russian Provisional Government in November 1917, their rhetoric laid the groundwork for the dictatorship of the proletariat. The socialist October Revolution crept quietly into Russian Karelia, a remote corner of the former Russian Empire, throughout 1918, as the Bolsheviks solidified their position in the Soviet Russian administrative bodies by force.

In my poster, I explore how the Karelian proletariat was perceived from the perspective of Soviet power and how it related to the Finnish-Karelian White faction's view of the working class in Russian Karelia during the Civil War. How did the

Bolsheviks and Finnish communists describe their relationship with the Karelian working class between 1918 and 1922, when the region alternated between war and peace, especially with White Finland lurking nearby with opposing views of the possible future?

I focus on these questions using conceptual historical methods, analyzing the language and discourses of the period as political action through Russian and Finnish-language sources. My material mainly consists of newspapers and leaflets from the era, which were distributed in the region of Russian Karelia.

Session: S-09-08 - Cultural Heritage: Museums, Archives and Collections**Date: 15-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Cultural Treasures and Their Displacement? Collecting and Preserving Icelandic Manuscripts within the Danish Realm (1840-1880)**Abstract ID: 288**Bragi Þorgrímur Ólafsson¹,¹ *National and University Library of Iceland, Iceland*

Approximately 2,000 manuscripts were transferred from Iceland to Copenhagen in the mid-nineteenth century as a result of prolific collection from all over Iceland by Icelandic scholars. They believed that libraries and archives in Copenhagen were the ideal places for preserving, researching, and publishing these manuscripts, while others argued that they should be kept in Iceland as national treasures. Tensions were high, as evidenced by numerous letters and articles that illustrate the dynamics of cultural nationalism during that time and the growing demands for Icelandic cultural and political autonomy which will be discussed in this lecture.

Title: The past and present in the cultural heritage of the Tranås fur business, 1921–2024**Abstract ID: 137**Sofie Lindeberg¹,¹ *Linköping University, Sweden*

This paper explores boundaries between past and present, remembering and forgetting, material and immaterial in a local cultural heritage process. The research concerns how a local cultural heritage has been created by different actors over time concerning a specific topic: the fur business in Tranås. The empirical focus of the paper is how a cultural heritage has been constructed in different contexts when actors make choices concerning what material and immaterial aspects of the past to include in archives, collections and museum exhibitions. By developing Laurajane Smith's work on Authorized Heritage Discourse (2009), this paper discusses how a local authorized heritage discourse was developed in a specific case, shedding light

on who and what is remembered or forgotten when a local cultural heritage is created by certain actors who act and negotiate in specific contexts and times.

Title: In the border area between old and new nationality

Abstract ID: 78

Jørgen Mikkelsen¹,

¹ *Rigsarkivet, Denmark*

Denmark got a law about citizenship in 1776 as one of the first states in the world. The Danish National Archives has files about all persons who became naturalized until the beginning of the 21st century and on this occasion had to give up their nationality till then. An ongoing research project based on a sample of these files throws light on different types of immigrants and their incentives to change nationality. Moreover, it gives thorough knowledge about shifting views by politicians and officials concerning the demands, which the foreigners had to meet before acquiring Danish citizenship. Thus, in the 18th century it was important to attract foreigners of property and with exceptional qualifications, while knowledge of the Danish language and other "cultural criterions" have been vital factors ever since 1850. However, the authorities often deviated from their principles.

Session: S-09-09 - Power structures and social networks in pre-industrial Nordic small towns**Date: 15-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Researching early modern towns with HTR and social network analysis**Abstract ID: 502**Jenni Merovuo¹, **Antti Härkönen**,¹¹ *University of Eastern Finland, Finland*

We present the preliminary results from research on power structures in eastern towns in 17th century Sweden. We focus on Kexholm, the largest town and provincial capital of Kexholm province located along the inland water route connecting Lake Ladoga with old Swedish Karelia around Vyborg. We investigate the underlying structures of the urban fabric with social network analysis of the HTR-produced data from the minutes of the town councils. By placing the connections and actions in their local micro-context we can unveil how the network functioned on the everyday level. We expect there to be a few key figures central to the networks, but the official hierarchy may be challenged by the variety of economic, family, and religious networks. We assume the social system in the border region to be complex, influenced by unique local conditions.

Title: Studying merchant networks in the Swedish 17th century town of Nyen**Abstract ID: 504**Kasper Kepsu¹,¹ *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

This presentation deals with the merchants in Nyen, the easternmost Swedish trading town at the far end of the Gulf of Finland. In the last decades of the 17th century, Nyen emerged as one of the leading centres of the transit trade between Russia and Western Europe. The economic boom in Nyen was based on naval stores. Nyen was a border town, inhabited by different ethnic groups, in particular Finns, Swedes, Ingrians, Karelians, Russians, as well as German, Dutch and a few British burghers. The most powerful burghers were of German or Baltic-German descent and closely tied together by marriages. Since almost no private source material has survived, studying the local and transnational networks is challenging.

However, it is still possible to trace networks through court records, which contains information about commercial relations, credits, kinship, and conflicts.

Title: GIS and studying the segregation of 19th century town of Vyborg

Abstract ID: 745

Antti Härkönen¹,

¹ *University of Eastern Finland, Finland*

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Title: A question of responsibility - wartime forced migration in 18th century Swedish towns

Abstract ID: 744

Olof Blomqvist¹,

¹ *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

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Session: S-09-11 - Busy Businesswomen. Nordic experiences of a global practice of female entrepreneurship, c. 1800-1940**Date: 15-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: The development of female entrepreneurship in a social and transnational context – Iceland in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century**Abstract ID: 644**Sigríður Matthíasdóttir¹, Þorgerður Einarsdóttir¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

Research on Icelandic businesswomen is still extremely limited (see though Fridriksson 1990, Matthíasdóttir and Einarsdóttir 2022). This paper is related to a new research project on these women and will present the first results.

We will, for the first, address the question of women running enterprises in Iceland before ca. 1880 and to which extent such women existed at all? We will ask whether transnationalism combined with social capital (Matthíasdóttir and Einarsdóttir 2018, 2022) may perhaps be an important tool to identify such women, who may, for example, have possessed relations to Danish merchants.

Secondly, our goal is to analyse how women's possibilities to run businesses developed in the crucial period from ca. 1880-1920. We will discuss legal, political and social changes, combined with discursive changes and ask how these alterations affected women's business opportunities like for example the operation of restaurants and hotels or retail shops.

Finally, we will also ask whether transnationalism, combined with the concept of capital, is still important to identify the economic agency of women in this period?

Title: Practices and experiences of businesswomen in Reykjavík c. 1920-1940**Abstract ID: 645**Laufey Axelsdóttir¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

Along with urbanization and increased legal rights in the 20th century, women gradually became more visible in the public sphere. Women's role in the public

discourse, in the third and fourth decade of the twentieth century, was however to a high degree defined as being in the home, as housewives. Research on the practice and experience of Icelandic businesswomen in the twentieth century is still very limited, and their entrepreneurship, and company management has received little attention. This paper is related to a new research project where we explore which entrepreneurial activities women practiced in Reykjavík in 1920–1940 and what were their experiences as businesswomen. We analyse the impact of economic, social, and legal changes on women's entrepreneurship. And we employ theoretical perspectives that criticize masculine norms of entrepreneurship and the marginalization of women's contribution to job creation (Aston and Bishop, 2020) to shed light on how prevailing ideas and discourses on gender roles impacted women's practices and experiences in the public sphere. In the paper we will present the first results from our project.

Title: Local shops, global contacts: the world of female shopkeepers in late eighteenth century Finland

Abstract ID: 646

Anna Sundelin¹,

¹ *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

In this paper we examine the networks of female shopkeepers in Finland during the latter part of the 19th century, focusing on the origin of their supplies and their contacts both in the Nordics and beyond. The analysis will not only unwrap the networks and contacts over long distances but also give insight into the retail skills of the female entrepreneurs as well as the range of their supplies. This paper gives new insights into the consumer culture in Finland at the end of the 19th century as well as new knowledge about women's work and livelihoods during the time in question.

Title: Gender, class, and rationalization. The rise and fall of the Stockholm consumer cooperatives Svenska Hem and Thule.

Abstract ID: 718

Magnús Sveinn Helgason,

Svenska hem, founded in 1905 as a rampart in the struggle for suffrage and women's rights, has secured an important place for itself in the annals of Swedish consumer cooperation, not least as the focus of a popular mini-series aired by the

national broadcaster SVT during Christmas in 2013-2017. Its history and ultimate disappearance in a merger with Thule and several working-class cooperatives during WWI, engineered by Albin Johansson, who later became the CEO of Kooperativa Förbundet, the cooperative union and wholesale society, has been studied through a gender lens.

In this paper, I argue that adding a class- and business history perspective to this history sheds new light on the history of Svenska hem and its place in the history of Swedish consumer cooperation. I analyze the history of Thule and other contemporary working-class consumer cooperatives in Stockholm, the ideas of Johansson and the group of young management rationalizers he belonged to, and the history of the cooperative women's guilds. This offers a more nuanced picture of the evolution of consumer cooperation in Stockholm during the first two decades of the 20th century and the challenges cooperatives faced.

Title: Women as commercial entrepreneurs in Finland in late 19th century

Abstract ID: 649

Jarkko Keskinen¹,

¹ *University of Turku, Finland*

The study deals with the liberation process of the Finnish economy during the latter half of the 19th century and the birth of the new, modern urban trade and the rise of the consumption society. The focus is on women entrepreneurs and their rise in the Finnish economic life after the freedom of trade act in 1879. After the law new entrepreneurs' social background, status, experience, education or even gender no longer determined who had the right to conduct business. In consequence both the number of commercial entrepreneurs and the volume of trade began to increase almost exponentially in Finnish towns as a new generation of entrepreneurs made their entrance in business life.

This study will show, how and to what extent did women seize this opportunity and began to run business in Finnish towns in 1879-1900? Who were these new female entrepreneurs, and what was their social background, status, or education? Did they already have experience in business? What sort of business did these women begin to exercise? And finally what kind of role did they have in the rise of the new modern urban trade and way of life?

Title: Deaconesses, Welfare, and Entrepreneurship in Northern Norway, 1908-1930

Abstract ID: 648

Inger Marie Okkenhaug¹,

¹ *Volda University College, Norway*

In 1908 the organization Women Mission Workers (“Kvinnelige misjonsarbeidere”: KMA) established a mission station, *Fredly*, in Tysfjord in Northern Norway. Inspired by the German Deaconess’ institution Friedenshort in Schlesien and Swedish KMA’s welfare work among the Sami population in Sweden, the Norwegian organization financed, developed, and run a major health establishment Tysfjord’s large Sami population, including a health clinic, care for old people and by the early 1920s, a clinic for patients with tuberculosis. The transnational ties between Tysfjord and the German institution were nourished and strengthened throughout the period. At the same time, with the establishment of the tuberculosis clinic, regional and national interests came to play, financially and politically.

This paper will explore the ways KMA’s faith-based work incited and/or obstructed female entrepreneurship. What characterized negotiations with regional and national health authorities; financially and professionally? And, finally, what role did transnational ties play in the commercial side of KMA’s health institution in Tysfjord?

Title: Townswomen in Denmark 1787-1901 - the double-livelihood’ model**Abstract ID: 647**

Hanne Schaumburg Sørensen¹,

¹ *Museum Østjylland, Denmark*

This study shows that a ‘double-livelihood’ model, where both husband and wife contributed to the household’s economic survival, were practiced throughout the 19th century in the Danish market towns. In addition to housework, the married women in the market town often had a secondary occupation. The wife contributed either through unpaid work for her husband and/or through paid or salaried work inside and outside of the home. A marriage was therefore often based on mutual dependence, cooperation and responsibility. Supporting the family was instead a collaborative project, a ‘double-livelihood’ model where both the wife and the husband contributed. The contemporary bourgeois ideal that respectable married women from the middle class did not perform paid work was an ideal that was difficult to relate to in the Danish market towns.

The fact that working married women are partly written out of Danish history is because they are not easy to find in the source material. Their work was not reported to public institution until 1901. The working wives must therefore instead be traced in

other source material such as memoirs, topographical descriptions, accounts of the poor, fund applications and newspapers.

Session: S-09-12 - Political right and practices, capital, and conditional citizenship**Date: 15-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Capital and Political Candidacy**Abstract ID: 749**Fia Cottrell-Sundevall¹,¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

Building on insights from the presentation on the book *Suffrage, Capital, and Welfare*, which deals with voting barriers, this talk shifts focus to economic restrictions on political *candidacy* in Sweden. It discusses forthcoming research on how financial criteria barred individuals from standing for office. Framing these barriers within labour history, we will examine the impact of class-based restrictions on the representation of the working class, as well as how socialist organizations challenged these restrictions.

Title: Suffrage, Capital, and Welfare: Conditional Citizenship in Historical Perspective**Abstract ID: 748**Ragnheiður Kristjánsdóttir¹, Fia Cottrell-Sundevall²,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*² *Stockholm University, Sweden*

This presentation shares findings from the newly published book *Suffrage, Capital, and Welfare* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024), which investigates voting barriers across five Nordic countries as well as Aotearoa New Zealand, Brazil, Canada, Austria, and India. The book demonstrates how economic restrictions on suffrage systematically excluded working-class men and women, along with other marginalised groups, from the electorate, thereby reinforcing social hierarchies rooted in class, gender, race, and age.

Session: S-09-13 - The bonds and boundaries of The Nordic Countries During the Second World War, 1939–1945**Date: 15-08-2025 - 11:00 - 13:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Blockade and consumption: Food supplies in Norway**Abstract ID: 640**Hans Otto Frøland¹,¹ *Norwegian University of Science and Technology NTNU, Norway*

When the Wehrmacht attacked Denmark and Norway in April 1940 German war planners had anticipated a British blockade would grossly reduce Norwegian food supplies as the country was a large importer. They understood that Germany must substitute supplies. Norwegian consumption indeed went down during the war. Hunger perceptions in the USA lead to the *American Relief for Norway* whereas aid schemes were set up in Sweden and Denmark. However, Norway did not face hunger as in the Netherlands and it is well established that official Norwegian post-war accounts tended to overestimate the loss.

The purpose of our paper is to elaborate the food supply conditions in Norway by looking at various supply agencies combined, the Norwegian Ministry of Supply, the German *Reichskommissariat*, and the German *Wehrmacht*. This allows for addressing the overall politics of supply, its micro-level regulations, and its macro-level effects. We argue that the Ministry of Supply as well as the *Reichskommissariat* worked deliberately to sustain supplies from the other Nordic countries and other European countries occupied by Germany and that food consumption measured in terms of calories per capita was comparatively high among occupied countries.

Title: “It is never enough to tell a foreign country about ourselves ...”: The Office of War Information and the development of US public diplomacy in Iceland during WWII**Abstract ID: 641**Haukur Ingvarsson¹,¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

During WWII, the United States Office of War Information (OWI) channelled information between military authorities and civilians at home and abroad. This paper

discusses the development of public diplomacy at the OWI in Iceland, with special emphasis on efforts made by US art historian Hjörvarður Harvard Arnason. The OWI initially focused on news broadcasts in Iceland, but following an agreement to give it fixed broadcasting slots on Icelandic state radio, more emphasis was placed on cultural exchange and people-to-people communication.

Due to various initiatives in Iceland while working for the OWI, Arnason was recruited to the Department of State in Washington, DC, where he communicated to his superiors the general lessons learned from the methods he had used in Iceland. Arnason's most remarkable initiative in Iceland was an exhibition at the Listamannaskálinn pavilion in April 1944, which highlighted contemporary US painting. Thirty watercolours by many of America's leading contemporary painters were imported specially for the exhibition, which bore witness to the United States' desire to present itself as a nation of culture comparable to European nations, particularly France and the United Kingdom.

Title: Searching for Security: Icelandic Foreign Policy and the US Sphere of Influence, 1939–1941

Abstract ID: 642

Skafti Ingimarsson¹,

¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

In July 1941, the Icelandic and US governments signed the Icelandic-US Defence Agreement. The lead-up to the agreement has long been shrouded in mystery and a matter of historical debate. While some scholars argue the Allies forced the agreement upon the Icelandic government, others point to it as an example of US and British good will towards the Icelandic people. This paper describes the lead-up to the agreement and discusses its effect on Iceland's position during the Second World War. Icelandic, American, Danish, and British documents demonstrate that the Icelandic government concluded in 1939 that the only way to ensure the country's security was to actively seek military protection from the United States, and that Icelandic diplomats initiated secret discussions with US officials in Washington and Reykjavík during 1940–1941, which ended with the signing of the agreement. The paper concludes that the defence agreement marked a turning point in Icelandic foreign policy and paved the way for the establishment of the Icelandic Republic in June 1944. However, the cost was greater than anticipated, for it meant that Iceland had entered the US sphere of influence, where it still remains.

Title: The Quest of a Nordic History of the Second World War

Abstract ID: 643

Henrik Meinander¹,

¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

Second World War remains one of the most investigated topics among Nordic historians and many of us have in our publications introduced new research approaches, theories and source materials. However, the research community have regularly stucked either to national or international frameworks in its research. Either we focus exclusively on national issues or try alternatively to explain the development in a general European context, whereas the regional and transnational circumstances, such as the German grip of North-Europe or inter-Nordic migration and economic dependency, are somewhat forgotten or ignored. Consequently, I claim in my paper that there is an obvious quest for research projects, which fill this knowledge gap between the national and European understanding of wartime Europe, and I will put forward some ideas of how to proceed in this task.

Session: S-10-03 - Urban Transformations, Poor Relief and Welfare State developments**Date: 15-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Pushing the Boundaries of the Poor Relief System: The Agency of the Disadvantaged in Finland in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries.**Abstract ID: 83**Roosa Tyni¹,¹ *University of Oulu, Finland*

Receiving public assistance in the late 19th and early 20th century Finland submitted the recipients to the control, guardianship, and discipline of the poor relief system. The Poor Relief Act (1879) sought to limit the number of recipients by making access to assistance difficult and undesirable. However, the recipients were not passive subjects but sought to shape the boundaries imposed on them, challenged rules and regulations, and negotiated for aid. This paper discusses the ways in which individuals sought to destabilise the boundaries set for them. The focus is on long-term recipients who faced a wide range of economic, health and social problems. Their efforts reflect the agency of disadvantaged individuals within the weak social security system of the time. Research material consists of records from the Poor Relief Archive in the city of Oulu, Finland. The analysis focuses on selected cases, through which various forms of agency are examined.

Title: Spatial boundaries of citizenship in social assistance: layered legacy of 1852 poor law in Finland**Abstract ID: 39**Minna Harjula¹,¹ *Tampere University, Finland*

The first nationwide implemented poor law (1852) in Finland conceptualized the relationship between poor relief and recipient as “guardianship”. Within the argarian patriarchal order, this set spatial boundaries for the recipients’ citizenship. In order to prevent vagrant beggary, the legal protection from poor relief was tied to the locality where the recipient had residence. Moving to another parish was not allowed.

My paper indicates the long-lasting legacy of 1852 poor law, as the later legislation on social assistance also included spatial restrictions. Orders on the “right to residence” limited the recipients’ freedom to move until 1956 and in indoor care even until the 1980s. Moreover, the minority of Roma and individuals called “welfare tourists” – young men wandering around – raised special questions of spatial belonging in social assistance. The analysis shows how the mid-nineteenth century spatial boundaries had presence in the later practices of the Finnish welfare state margins.

Title: The Homes the City Built: Temporary Municipal Housing Solutions in Stockholm 1840-1950

Abstract ID: 15

Hannes Rolf ¹,

¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

Housing has historically been an ambiguous welfare issue, with social housing policy varying wildly nationally and locally. Much like other cities, Stockholm faced reoccurring acute housing shortages. A new category of homeless working poor and the city reoccurringly decided on temporary shelters during the 19th and 20th centuries. These shelters were of two kinds; the first was placing tenants in whatever facilities were available, such as institutions, old factories and schools. Another kind was constructed low-standard barracks that started being constructed around the turn of the century 1900. These shelters, built on what was then the urban periphery, were supposed to be temporary construction but were often to remain for decades. It is argued that these recurring housing measures taken by Stockholm and that studying the city's municipal practices predating the welfare state is crucial to understanding how the city acted and came to understand itself as a welfare provider.

Title: Den danske hovedstadsmetropol

Abstract ID: 150

Henning Bro ¹,

¹ *Frederiksberg Stadsarkiv, Denmark*

Den danske hovedstadsmetropol

Seniorforsker, Ph.D, Henning Bro, Frederiksberg Stadsarkiv, Danmark

Efter Stockholmsregionen er den danske hovedstadsmetropol med 2,1 mio. indbyggere den næststørste byregion i Norden. Fra midten af det 19. århundrede begyndte det førindustrielle og fæstningsindespærrede København transformationen til en hovedstadsmetropol med stadig flere funktionelt forskelligartede byenheder, der indbyrdes interagerede med realkapital, arbejdskraft, pendling, varer og tjenester. En interaktionsproces, der understøttedes af stadig flere og mere komplekse offentligt aktørtilvejebragte regionale rammebetingelser for metropolens funktion som en byregion. Indtil disse regionale rammebetingelser afmonteredes i årtierne omkring årtusindeskiftet.

Oplægget belyser de central træk ved hovedstadsmetropolens urbane transformationsfaser og påviser med fokus på regional fysisk planlægning og regional trafikale infrastruktur, hvorledes disse centrale regionale rammebetingelser påvirkede metropolens udvikling som en funktionel byregion. I dette udviklingsforløb bevægede hovedstadsmetropolen sig fra regional planløshed til en stadig højere grad af regional planmæssighed, der fra 1990 på ny afløstes af en tiltagende regional planløshed.

Session: S-10-05 - Intellectual history from below: The plans, projects and political ideas of marginalised voices, 1680-1850**Date: 15-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Petitioning peasants. Petitions as political texts of the politically excluded**Abstract ID: 566****Anne Engelsts Nørgaard¹,****¹ Norwegian University of Science and Technology NTNU, Trondheim, Norway**

This paper will investigate petitions as sources to the political ideas of an emerging peasant movement in Denmark in the 1830s and 1840s. The political historiography of Denmark in the mid-19th century has generally emphasized the actions and ideas of urban liberals in their struggle against the absolute, conglomerate state. In contrast, actors belonging to the lower rural classes function as background figures whose ideas remain unexamined.

I will argue that petitioning became a popular form of political participation for politically excluded groups in the last decades of absolutism in Denmark. The paper will discuss how petitioning posed an opportunity to experiment with political communication, mobilization, and organization. I will discuss the promise of using petitions as political texts that give us access to the political thinking of people who didn't belong to the politically included groups and are often overlooked in the historiography.

Title: The Imperative Mandate: Democracy in Theory and Practice in the Parisian Sectional Assemblies, 1789-1794**Abstract ID: 567****Nicolai von Eggers¹,****¹ University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark**

This paper will discuss conceptions and practices of democracy, political participation, and political control as it was expressed by Parisians in the local sectional assemblies during the first part of the French Revolution. The sectional assemblies were originally intended as electoral assemblies, but local Parisians turned these neighbourhood assemblies into hubs of political activity with claims to

control of local administration and in some instances even sovereign power. Most of the meeting minutes and related material disappeared in the fires of the Bloody Week during the Paris Commune. But through surviving meeting extracts, resolutions, and newspaper reports, this paper will reconstruct some of the political ideas of local Parisians, particularly the conception and practice of the imperative mandate and how this was tied to greater visions for the political structure of France. Whereas intellectual historians have thus far focused mainly on pamphlets and higher rung intellectuals, this paper is innovative by trying to focus on ordinary people through material related to the local assemblies.

Title: Visions of Revolution before the Revolution

Abstract ID: 568

Juliane Engelhardt¹,

¹ *University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark*

In late 17th century England and Germany, there was a widespread notion of the imminent return of Christ, in which the world would end and a new one would emerge characterised by social justice and the rule of God's elect. This paper presents the historical and theological underpinnings of this millenarian expectation and explores why it gained momentum in the decades leading up to the turn of the century. In particular, radical Pietists propagated millenarian anticipations and they may be placed in a larger context of opposition to ecclesiastical and political authority. Against this backdrop, this paper discusses alternative ways in which uneducated populations protested against established hierarchies and authorities, including by presenting alternative interpretations of the Bible. Religious dissenters' visions of a social revolution were quite widespread in Northern Europe until the mid-18th century, but disintegrated and disappeared before the actual age of revolution.

Session: S-10-06 - Biography, Microhistory, and the Arts**Date: 15-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Actor and Draughtsman Axel Fredrik Cederholm and the Landscape. On microhistory and drawings.**Abstract ID: 673**Anna Brodow Inzaina¹,¹ *Stockholm City Museum, Sweden*

During the 1770s and 1780s, significant cultural policy initiatives were undertaken in Sweden, creating new opportunities in cultural life. The Royal Opera, the Royal Theatre, the Royal Ballet, and the Royal Swedish Orchestra offered career opportunities for artists. For those who succeeded on stage, there was the possibility of a profitable career, both on stage and within the administration.

Based on the career choices and development of an individual, this paper reflects on microhistory as an art historical method. By focusing on a lesser-known, yet typical artist of his time, the study highlights how personal stories can contribute to a deeper understanding of larger historical events.

Title: The 17th-century poet Lars Johansson Lucidor's life and times. On microhistory and biography**Abstract ID: 674**Annika Sandén¹,¹ *Stockholm City Museum, Sweden*

Lars Johansson, one of the foremost poets of the 1660s in Sweden, was known for his witty songs and poems for the occasions. He provoked a nobleman and died in a duel he himself initiated. Who was this irascible poet, and what does his life reveal about 17th-century society?

Using the life and career of a single individual, this paper reflects on biography as a historical method. By examining Lars Johansson Lucidor's life and social context—the prevalence of violence, the concept of male honor, the role of poetry, and the

conditions of poets in 17th-century Europe and Sweden—this study illuminates his lifeworld while also providing a deeper understanding of the era in which he lived.

Title: Barefoot Historians and the Creative Class in the 19th Century Iceland

Abstract ID: 675

Sigurður Gylfi Magnússon ¹,

¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

Manuscripts, like other books, do not just contain conventional texts but also often pictorial material of various kinds – drawings, illustrations, decorations and symbols. The focus of this paper will be on investigating the influences that creative work of this kind in texts had on the individual persons who had to live with the formal restrictions of a rather rigid society. Including will be a focus on how this activity contributed to people’s increased awareness of the need to improve and consolidate literacy skills, how it served to promote abstract thinking and concepts about life, and how it consequently encouraged creative activity of various kinds among the general public. Individuals who produced this kind of pictorial expression will be studied – especially one farmer from the 19th century who made his own encyclopaedia about the creation of human societies in historical times – and conclusions drawn about their importance to the cultural milieu of the ordinary working class in general. These individuals formed, as I see it, members of a ‘creative class’ whose passion lay in cultivating creative activity of various kinds and sometimes referred to as “Barefoot Historians”.

Session: S-10-08 - Nordic Minorities between Control and Autonomy**Date: 15-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: Between Control and Guarantees for Territorial Autonomy – The Experience of the Åland Islands**Abstract ID: 453**Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark ¹,¹ *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

The importance of dispute resolution tools and more broadly of domestic and international guarantees for territorial autonomy arrangements is currently being studied primarily from the angle of research on peace agreements, generally with focus on the post-Cold War period. An increasing bulk of literature argues that the institutions and processes available for dispute resolution are a crucial factor for the survival of such arrangements. In this presentation the gaze of law shall be broadened by an examination with a longer timeframe drawing upon the experience of the Åland Islands, an autonomous, demilitarised and neutralised region in Finland. Bridging the past and the present, I shall discuss the concept of “international guarantees” and their fate from 1854 until our days. What and who is controlled through such guarantees? Do such guarantees seem to contribute to the resilience of territorial autonomy and, if so, how?

Title: The Danish Movement in Schleswig and its Kin-state Relations to Denmark 1864-1914**Abstract ID: 454**Klaus Tolstrup Petersen ¹,¹ *Aarhus University, Denmark*

After the defeat in the war against Prussia and Austria in 1864, Denmark lost the duchies of Schleswig, Holstein and Lauenburg. Especially the loss of Schleswig was painful because a population of around 180.000 Danish-minded people lived there. Immediately after the war private organizations in Denmark established a kin-state relation to the Danish minority in Germany. These organizations played a crucial role not only in supporting and financing a national Danish movement in Schleswig, but

also in shaping and influencing the way it evolved. This relationship continued until the outbreak of WW1, but it changed over the years. Especially in the first years after the war in 1864 the organizations in Denmark played an active role in controlling the national agenda in the Danish movement in Schleswig but step by step it became more autonomous. In this paper I will examine how this relationship changed in the period 1864-1914.

Title: From Neighbours to Suspects: State Surveillance of the German Minority in Denmark after the Second World War

Abstract ID: 750

Katja Petersen¹,

¹ *University of Southern Denmark, Denmark*

After the Second World War, the German minority in Southern Denmark found itself in a precarious position. Though citizens of Denmark, their cultural and historical ties to Germany, and the role some members played during the war, led to suspicion. This paper examines how the Danish state responded by initiating systematic surveillance of the minority community through intelligence services. The case of the German minority in Southern Denmark raises important questions about the balance between state security and minority rights in a democratic society. It also invites reflection on how former enemies, who are native to the country, are reintegrated in the aftermath of conflict.

**Session: S-10-09 - Female Remembrance 1400–1600, part 2:
monastic culture**

Date: 15-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30

Abstract(s):

Title: The Queen's Chapel: Royal memory and Queen Philippa of Scandinavia, c. 1406-1430

Abstract ID: 444

Louise Berglund¹,

¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

In 1430, Queen Philippa of Sweden, Denmark and Norway died at Vadstena abbey and was buried there in the choir she had founded. This paper focusses the creation of memory by the queen in the Birgittine abbey church, in two contexts. One is her personal advocacy of the Birgittines, while the other is the role of the Birgittines for her Scandinavian realms as well as her native English royal family's devotion, culminating in the foundation of Syon abbey. What was the role of the Birgittine devotion for the queen and her family, and how did Vadstena and her chapel function as a locus of memory – both for Birgittine devotion and for the Queen herself and her family?

Title: Gaude Birgitta! – Singing St Birgitta's memory in the Birgittine liturgy

Abstract ID: 445

Karin Lagergren¹,

¹ *Linnéuniversitetet, Sweden*

The sisters in the Birgittine Order preserved the memory of the Order's founder Saint Birgitta (c 1303-1373) in a most extraordinary way. Chants commemorating her were incorporated into their Marian centered liturgy on Birgittine feast days but also in their ferial liturgy the *Cantus sororum*. These chants were in the form of antiphons in Lauds and Vespers and in processions. Not only Birgitta but also her daughter Katherina (†1381) was commemorated with chants in a similar manner. By placing these chants alongside the Mother of Christ, Birgitta (and Katherina) were inscribed into the very heart of the Order and its memory: the liturgy. The presentation examines this repertoire for Birgitta and Katherina and their role in the Birgittine liturgy and spirituality, and presents recorded version of a few of the chants.

Title: Remembrance and personal gifts to nuns in testamentary bequest in late medieval Sweden**Abstract ID: 446**Anna-Stina Hägglund ¹,¹ *University of Turku, Finland*

Gifts to monastic communities and requests for remembrance were commonplace in late medieval Sweden. Pious bequests are also tied to remembrance of the donors and their next of kin through the spiritual services such as prayers, burials, masses and vigils that were requested in the letters of donation or last wills. Here the focus lies on women as testators bequeathing religious communities in their wills and requesting personal remembrance. Testamentary gifts to the female religious are in focus and personal gifts to nuns in particular. Gifts such as golden rings, books and items of clothing were given to women in monastic communities in last wills issued by lay women. The paper discusses the meaning of such personal bequest in creating bonds between women and the role of material gifts in the broader plans of the testator to arrange for remembrance services to be held for the sake of her soul after death.

Session: S-10-10 - Boundless Monarchy: The Border-Crossing Nature of Royal Culture**Date: 15-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: The Propriety of Following Foreign Examples: Transnational Influences in Funeral Sermons for Princes in the Early 1600s**Abstract ID: 525**Alexander Isacsson¹,¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

When the Swedish dukes Johan and Karl Filip were commemorated in printed funeral sermons after their deaths in 1618 and 1622, respectively, the authors declared that they followed commendable foreign examples. At that time, printed funeral sermons for royalty were a relatively new medium and genre, having been imported from Germany. Using the sermons devoted to Johan and Karl, this paper discusses the German influence on princely constructions in Sweden, examining how Swedish clergymen borrowed elements, and adapted and transformed their texts to fit the new context. The presentation thus explores how the society of princes took shape through the circulation of knowledge and ideals, and to what extent such knowledge and ideals changed when they crossed national and linguistic borders.

Title: Eternal One-Upmanship Or The International Language of Ceremony**Abstract ID: 526**Fabian Persson¹,¹ *Linnéuniversitetet, Sweden*

Of course it was a competition. Early modern monarchs constantly kept an eye on their neighbours and other princes and princesses in general. The development of more elaborate princely ceremonies framing monarchical life has been traced to the dukes of Burgundy and beyond. The focus on ceremony, sometimes cast as etiquette, has often been seen as strengthening monarchical power over subjects. To contemporary princes, an equally important function was defending their place in a complex European hierarchy; or rather than defending their place, improving it and moving up in the eternal struggle in cross-border princely one-upmanship.

Title: Domestication of Monarchy**Abstract ID: 527**Jes Fabricius Møller¹,¹ *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

During the nineteenth century, European monarchies went through a profound transformation due to the constitutional movement, the rise of nationalism as a political movement, and new media. Using examples from the courts in Stockholm and Copenhagen, I will discuss how that changed the scope of action, legitimation strategy and appearance of the royal houses, and I will suggest that this development could fall under the broader term Domestication of Monarchy (Simon Schama).

Session: S-10-13 - The connected histories of Roma in the Nordic region I**Date: 15-08-2025 - 14:00 - 15:30**

Abstract(s):

Title: The individual trajectories of the Roma Holocaust. A case of two Norwegian-Swedish-Belgian Romani families**Abstract ID: 721**Andrej Kotliartchouk¹,¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

Testimonies of survivors are a principal source for the study of the Roma. The lack of academic publications of primary printed sources can be attributed to several interrelated factors: the fragmentation and inaccessibility of archival collections; the low interest to the study of this theme among scholars and the postponed recognition of the Roma Holocaust.

There were about 300 survivors of the Roma genocide in Sweden in the 1990s, including those who came to the country in 1945, during the White Busses and White Boats humanitarian operation. There is a research on Holocaust survivors' testimonies in Sweden, however the testimonies of Roma survivors, especially those who came in 1945 is under-studied. Based on previously unknown sources the paper examines the story of two Norwegian-Swedish-Belgian families of Roma under the Nazi genocide and after. How to combine the investigation of personal testimonies with the interpretation of sources found in archives? What methodological and ethical problems may arise? What kind of new knowledge about the Holocaust and the transnational history of Scandinavian-Romani communities could be provided by using a micro-historical approach?

Title: The dilemma of 'writing in' Romani histories: reflections on the case of Finland**Abstract ID: 720**Miika Tervonen¹,¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

What kinds of dilemmas of positionality, research ethics and focus arise in researching the history of a racialized and discriminated Roma minority group from an outsider position, and in attempting to ‘write in’ Romani histories into national narratives? In this presentation, I will present reflections on this question on the basis of the project *History of the Finnish Roma* (2010-2012) and some comparable Nordic projects. I argue that there is an unavoidable tension and risks of unintentional exclusion and colonization of the past in doing Roma-related research from a *gadje* position, drawing from- and at worst reinforcing the persistent anti-Roma racism both within and outside the academia. Yet in the context of the Nordic countries, avoiding historical research on the Roma or other racialized minorities perpetuates homogenizing ‘white’ understanding of the past. The presentation thus attempts to chart some lessons from past projects and sketch ways to move forward.

Title: The History of Roma in Finland and Folklore Collections – Evolving Interpretation

Abstract ID: 719

Risto Blomster¹, Kati Mikkola¹,

¹ *Finnish Literature Society (SKS), Finland*

The archival collections of the Finnish Literature Society (SKS) include both the oral tradition of the Roma and the tradition of non-Roma regarding the Roma. In our presentation, we will introduce both of these collections and explore how they are used in SKS's archival pedagogical collaboration with the University of Helsinki's Romani language and culture courses (which began in 2012). At the core of this collaboration are student visits to the SKS archive as part of the annual course *The History of the Roma in Finland*. This course provides an introduction to collections that illuminate Roma-related traditions from both perspectives of exclusion and inclusion.

The materials collected and narrated by the Roma themselves form *The Finnish Roma Archive* collection, which was established in 2018. A contrasting and pedagogically distinct perspective is provided through accounts of non-Roma concerning the Roma, available through SKS's folklore index cards (initiated in the 1930s). In our presentation, we examine archival pedagogy as “a pedagogy of voices and silences” and reflect on the pedagogical and ethical challenges posed by materials collected at different times, as well as the classification methods used in their cataloging.

Session: S-11-01 - The blurry boundaries of international aid**Date: 15-08-2025 - 16:00 - 18:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Using the “field” for different purposes. Boundary-crossing and co-production in early Swedish development aid**Abstract ID: 630**Annika Berg¹,¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

During the latter half of the twentieth century, development aid formed as a new concept as well as an area of politics and an institutionalized practice. The same time period saw a rapid expansion and sub-specialization within the social sciences. This paper looks at these developments as a boundary-crossing, mutually constitutive process: a process of co-production, where the still experimental “field” of development aid could also function as an experimental field for various social sciences – old and new.

For example, the late 1950s/early 1960s Swedish pilot projects in family planning in Ceylon and Pakistan provided a field for medical doctors to experiment with new contraceptive technologies, but also an arena for a range of social scientists – statisticians, sociologists, demographers and experts in social pedagogy and mass communication – to try out new methods in novel environments, where an ubiquity of problems and complications provided unique opportunities for research and method development.

Title: From war effort to development aid: the Scandinavian Red Cross societies and Korea**Abstract ID: 631**Sunniva Engh¹,¹ *University of Oslo, Norway*

Scandinavian international engagement is often studied from a state-focused angle, even though it is a field where boundaries between state and civil society involvement may be blurred. For example, in Scandinavian engagement in Korea 1951-1971, the Red Cross societies played central parts in the countries’ contributions to the Korean war effort as well as in establishing a Scandinavian aid

project, the National Medical Centre, after the war. This paper explores the role of the Scandinavian Red Cross societies in Korea, presenting an alternative to the state-centred focus by exploring the societies' relations with the Scandinavian armed forces, foreign ministries and aid administrations, and their international engagement on behalf of the Scandinavian states.

Title: The temporalities of humanitarian and human rights media

Abstract ID: 632

Susan Lindholm ¹,

¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

While humanitarian aid and human rights work take place in overlapping, but nevertheless distinct spheres, the boundaries between them become blurred when it comes to humanitarian and human rights media. To keep humans alive in emergency situations, humanitarian work prioritizes action over thinking and immediacy over analysis. As it takes place during a 'time of exception', its 'natural' time is the present. It is less concerned with the past, that is, how and why people came to be in need. Human rights work on the other hand is based on recording, collecting, and preserving the memories of those who have been subject to human rights violations. This paper traces the blurred boundaries between these two spheres by discussing how the Biafra War, a conflict and famine in the context of an unsuccessful attempt of secession 1967-70, is used to create a humanitarian past in the documentary *Jesus Christ Airlines* (2001).

Title: Sweden, neutrality and aid to the national movements in southern Africa 1965–1980.

Abstract ID: 95

Christian Kjellsson ¹,

¹ *Swedish Defence University, Sweden*

Where does the boundary between humanitarian aid and military support go? When decolonization took off in early 1960s, Sweden became an early supporter to a selected number of national movements waging an armed struggle against the colonial power Portugal in Angola and Mozambique or white minority rule in Rhodesia. While some national movements received both political support and material aid – other movements did not receive support.

I will describe and problematize the mechanisms and demarcation issues that arose within the decision-making process of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) in relation to the Swedish stance of being non-aligned in peace with the purpose of being neutral in war. My study shows that Swedish officials knew that the supported movements employed the delivered equipment in military operations, even tailoring the aid to fit the movements military challenges thus blurring the boundaries between humanitarian aid and military support.

Session: S-11-02 - Radical Pietism in Northern Europe, 1690 – 1750**Date: 15-08-2025 - 16:00 - 18:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Perceptions of gender in radical Pietism**Abstract ID: 736**Juliane Engelhardt¹,¹ *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

In recent years, there has been an increasing focus on women's participation in religious communities. Especially in dissenting communities, such as the Quakers and radical Pietist, women were not only numerous, they also often took leading roles as organisers, prophets or mystics. The first presentation in this panel discusses how radical religious women and men often interpreted the Bible with an explicit focus on gender. They presented passages that restricted women in the public sphere as historically contingent. Conversely, passages that emphasised women's spiritual equality with men were presented as the essence of Christianity. Overall, this illuminates why the radical religious sphere had an extraordinary appeal to women. The practical effect was that the radical religious sphere saw a remarkably high number of female participants.

Title: The Christian Kabbalah and Pietist meritocracy: Perfectionism through religious embodiment**Abstract ID: 737**Ariane Viktoria Fichtl¹,¹ *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

The second presentation elaborates on the first by showing how religious women and men came to use these Biblical interpretations to embrace certain concepts tied to the theosophical tradition called Christian Kabbalism and how these aided them to overcome contemporary ideas of soul-body-dualism (that symbolised a form of slavery to sin) through the so-called *hexis* which were embodiment practices used by radical Pietists to allow the "realisation and organisation of the spiritual" (Gottfried Arnold). I further argue that these practices were created as a form of practical Christianity inspired by Biblical figures (in case of women notably the so-called

Mother in Israel-figure) and that they offered viable models for new practical forms of social and political reform in the later eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, such as anti-slavery activism, particularly in Britain and the United States.

Title: Unity through Deviation – Radical Pietist Journeys in Banishment

Abstract ID: 738

Elisabeth Björkenheim Andersen¹,

¹ *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

A key piece to the puzzle regarding radical pietism in the Nordic countries, is understanding what happened with and to the groups that clashed with the respective states in Denmark-Norway and Sweden-Finland. The churches and states were quite different in the two kingdoms, including their approaches to pietism, the Danish king being considerably more positive towards moderate pietism, but there were also characteristic similarities. Notably, there was a lack of religious plurality, but their reactions to radical pietism and separatism were also surprisingly similar. Looking at several cases where dissident believers were banished from their home country, this presentation discusses how the diverse communities were tied together internally through identity, faith, and family, and externally, to create a network of Nordic pietism in a Northern European context, all making their homes in a new, transnational setting.

The synergy evolving from these three subprojects is a comprehensive understanding of how radical Pietists challenged traditional conventions and symbols of power through critical ideas and new networks, and by visualizing and performing new social norms.

Session: S-11-03 - Histories of Social Welfare and Discipline**Date: 15-08-2025 - 16:00 - 18:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: "Ett frivillighetens barmhärtighetsverk" – kallelse, välgörenhet och moralisk plikt. Om etableringen av de första svenska ålderdomshemmen i USA kring sekelskiftet 1900**Abstract ID: 203**Ulrika Lagerlöf Nilsson¹,¹ *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

I samband med den omfattande europeiska emigrationen till USA under 1800-talets andra hälft samlades landsmän i olika nationella gemenskaper. Ett exempel på sådana var kristna församlingar. Dessa hade många utmaningar att hantera, bland annat hur församlingarna skulle organiseras samt vilka verksamheter de skulle bedriva, prioritera och finansiera. I mitt paper diskuteras en av de uppgifter som svenska församlingar tog sig an: att etablera ålderdomshem för sina åldrade landsmän. Denna verksamhet mötte ett växande praktiskt och socialt behov. Antalet äldre emigranter blev allt fler samtidigt som det saknades en infrastruktur för deras omhändertagande. Vilka var då de äldre och vilka behov ansågs de ha? Utifrån ett kapabilitetsperspektiv kommer jag att visa och diskutera några konkreta exempel på svensk-amerikanska ålderdomshem. Genom att studera initiativtagarna till ålderdomshemmen, hur de organiserades och finansierades samt vilka som fick bo på hemmen tecknas en bild av likheter och skillnader i de olika ålderdomshemmens förutsättningar och verksamhet.

Title: Polissystrar – pionjärer i gränslandet mellan polisiärt och socialt arbete**Abstract ID: 97**Niklas Hill¹,¹ *Institutet för demokratiutveckling, Sweden*

År 1908 anställdes för första gången i svensk historia kvinnor för polisiära arbetsuppgifter. Dessa kvinnor var utbildade sjuksköterskor och fick titeln 'polissystrar'. Utifrån rådande särartspräglade genusordningen handlade deras arbetsuppgifter främst om socialt arbete kopplat till kvinnor och barn. I början var deras polisiära insatser mest inriktade på sådant som kroppsvisitering och bevakning

av anhållna kvinnor. Med tiden blev arbetet dock alltmer polisiärt och kunde innefatta förhørsledning och spaning.

Inte mycket har skrivits om Sveriges polissystrar som bröt mark i den manligt dominerade yrkeskåren. Baserat på arkivstudier ger den här studien en empirisk grund om polissystrarna: social och yrkesmässig bakgrund, vilka polisiära befogenheter och arbetsuppgifter de erhöll samt hur de skildrades internt och externt. Denna empiriska kunskap avses ligga till grund för vidare studier om relationen mellan polisiärt och socialt arbete, om kvinnors fortsatta plats inom den svenska polisen samt lämna ett svenskt bidrag till den nordiska polis(kvinno)historien.

Title: An enigmatic portrait album. Surveillance and Self-representation in 19th century Prostitution Portraits

Abstract ID: 128

Magnus Bremmer ¹,

¹ *Stockholm University, Sweden*

During the period when portrait photography was trending, regulation of prostitution in Stockholm were underway. Women in the sex-trade were required to be inspected and to follow special rules that restricted their movement and visibility in the city. Prostitution was described as the great social evil. Women suspected of prostitution were monitored, and photography also became a tool for identifying and controlling unwanted social elements.

In the project City Faces, we try to understand and analyse a strange album from the Morality police with portraits of women from the 1860s to the 1890s. These are studio portraits of the kind that became very popular at the time. Most have names. Marginal notes, ticks and crosses and, in some cases, deviant poses and gestures, tell the story that this is not an ordinary album. How and why did it come about? What purpose did it serve? Using the rolls of the Prostitution bureau, the Rotemansarkiv and facial recognition, we identify the women and the photographers. The women's life stories and the silent history of the photographs tell about visual culture and social structure in the late 19th century city.

Title: Widowers after losing their wives in childbirth on Iceland in the 18th and 19th century

Abstract ID: 237

Erla Dóris Halldórsdóttir ¹,

¹ Independent historian, Iceland

The lecture will discuss maternal mortality in Iceland, and its effects on the families of ten women, their husbands and their children on Iceland in the 18th and 19th century. There have been studies concentrated on widows rather than on widowers in Iceland. And the knowledge is needed on how the loss of a wife affected husbands, particularly when the wife died in childbirth. This study takes it from a new perspective. It will be discussed how the widowers, now single fathers, fare after the death of their wives and how did they deal with their grief. Did they all remarry or did they give their children up for adoption? According to research by Frans van Poppel men who lost their wives, while their children were still young, needed a housekeeper to raise the children. Women who lost their husbands needed financial support. Recent research has also revealed a high risk of suicide among people who lose their spouse. This risk goes away if they remarry.

Session: S-11-05 - Im/Material Religion in the Medieval North**Date: 15-08-2025 - 16:00 - 18:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: A Place to Shine: Darkness and Light in a Medieval Swedish Sacrament Niche**Abstract ID: 687**Celcily Hughes¹,¹ *Case Western Reserve University , United States*

Set into the wall of Gotland's *Alskogs kyrka* is a deceptively simple fourteenth-century sacrament niche. Inside, its doors are painted with the Virgin, Gabriel and two candle-bearing angels. The Annunciation, however, only occurs out of sight. Closing the doors conceals Mary and her messenger while bringing them face-to-face. Meanwhile, the cabinet's interior darkness is figuratively banished by the angels' candles. During the long, Scandinavian winter nights, this depiction of light in darkness would have sparked worshipers' imaginations—calling up a cozy, protected scene as Mary learns she will bear the son of God. Moreover, during the niche's liturgical use, the seraphs' candles herald Christ's bodily presence. By considering the geographical and environmental realities of living near the Arctic circle, I argue that this niche played upon medieval devotees' experiences of darkness throughout the year, stoking their desire to receive the light of Christ through the Church's physical and spiritual shelter.

Title: Computing, (En)Coding and Standardizing Time: Medieval Icelandic Easter Tables and their Usage**Abstract ID: 689**Loke Rangnes¹,¹ *Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany*

My project deals with ecclesiastical Easter tables of the 12th and 13th centuries in Iceland. Easter tables are constructed in the form of a geometrical matrix of dates encoded in punctuated letters of the Latin alphabet. These letters indicate the date of Easter for a given year, mostly in a cycle of 532 years, which represents a full paschal cycle. The cyclical character of Easter tables allowed for their usage as perpetual instruments for the ecclesiastical calculations of Easter dates and periods

of fasting, which were prescribed by contemporary law codes. The geometrically arranged tables were often colorfully designed and may possibly also have had cognitive and aesthetic functions. The results of the calculations had political implications, as they implied statements about alliances and affiliations within the medieval church, which was divided at the time by controversies about the "right" Easter date. My analysis focus on the content, design and possible usages of such Easter tables, and on the standardizing of time in medieval society.

Title: Ecclesiastical Textiles as an (Im)material Connection between the Sacred and Secular

Abstract ID: 690

Meghan Korten¹,

¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

Textiles are the sum of a long lifecycle from production to consumption to reuse. They have played important roles in sacred rituals and display in ecclesiastical spaces as liturgical vestments and decorations, yet also transcend the boundary between secular and sacred spaces over that lifecycle via production in secular or ecclesiastical households, likely by female makers without had direct access to the sacred rituals where used. This paper will explore how medieval Icelandic textiles bridge the sacred and secular, visualizing connections between makers or patrons and important religious figures via gifts, acting as material displays of secular families' power, how making textiles could be done to the glory of God or saints, or their use in services positions the maker herself in sacred space. It uses examples from annals and inventories of textile gifts, female textile contract workers, and discussion of visual codes on extant embroideries.

Session: S-11-06 - Pax Nordica: peace(ful) perspectives on early modern Nordic history**Date: 15-08-2025 - 16:00 - 18:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Swedish Peace Culture in Transition: Royal Proclamations and the Shift from Pax Westphalia to Pax Nordica, 1660-1815**Abstract ID: 621**Joachim Östlund¹,¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

Historical research on peace, also known as historical peace studies, seeks to explore the conditions and limitations for achieving peace, as well as how cultural perceptions of peace have changed over time. A peace culture encompasses values, visions, and interpretative frameworks associated with peace. This presentation explores the evolution of a distinct culture of peace in Sweden from the second half of the seventeenth century to the beginning of the nineteenth century, based on a cognitive perspective. Even if peace serves as a celebrated cultural reference point throughout the entire period, the expectations of it change. Time plays a role in this context, where an extended state of peace becomes a self-reinforcing process. This becomes evident during the Russo-Swedish War (1741–1743).

Title: Peace (im)possible: The peace negotiations at Brunswick (1712–1714)**Abstract ID: 622**Dorotheé Goetze¹,¹ *Mid Sweden University, Sweden*

History in general, and peace history in particular, often focus on negotiations that result in peace contracts. Thereby, peace and peace finding become stories of success. However, to nuance this narrative and to understand the complexities of peace processes it is necessary to include peace negotiations that did not fulfill their purpose. Using the example of the peace negotiations at Brunswick (1712-1714), my presentation discusses hindrances and prerequisites for peace finding.

Title: The spatiality of “the Last Peace”, 1743–1788**Abstract ID: 623**Jenni Merovuo¹,¹ *University of Eastern Finland, Finland*

My paper focuses on the spatial and temporal dimensions of peace in Swedish Finland, and more precisely the Russo-Swedish borderland. While Sweden and Denmark developed towards more stable unneighborly relationship, the rise of the Russian Empire since Peter I caused bellicose tensions in the east. By focusing on the process of border-crossings through Henri LeFebvre’s intertwined spatial triad, I aim to explore 1) what represented peace for the elites, 2) how was this kind of peace experienced and signified in the borderland, and 3) what constituted peace in the everyday?

Title: Whispers of Peace: Swedish Diplomatic Actors and Their Peace Seeking Actions During the Great Northern War**Abstract ID: 625**Emma Forsberg¹,¹ *Lund University, Sweden*

To comprehend Pax Nordica, it is essential to explore it from the perspectives of those directly involved in its formation. This study focuses on Swedish diplomats active across Europe during the Great Northern War, who played pivotal roles in the pursuit of Nordic peace. By analyzing their reports and correspondence, I aim to uncover how these diplomats experienced and understood the evolving concept of Pax Nordica, providing insight into the cognitive and experiential dimensions of their diplomatic engagements.

Session: S-11-07 - At the boundaries of free and coerced labour, Finland and Sweden 1500–1900**Date: 15-08-2025 - 16:00 - 18:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Socioeconomic Boundaries and Landlessness: Torpare of Iisalmi Parish (Eastern Finland) in the 17th Century**Abstract ID: 651**Ville-Pekka Kääriäinen¹,¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

The peripheral area of Iisalmi parish was colonized relatively late (especially from the 16th century onwards). Slash-and-burn cultivation-based pioneering farming created a particular social class in Iisalmi beneath the peasants, referred to as "torpare" (crofters) and "husman/inhyses" (lodgers). This paper examines the origins of this social class and its relationship with the peasants. It is also essential to explore how the tightening grip of the crown and policies directed at the landless, following state formation, affected the development of this group. The research is primarily based on court records and poll tax records.

Title: At the border between custom and the market: The regulation of day labourers' working conditions in 19th century Eastern Finland**Abstract ID: 652**Petri Talvitie¹,¹ *University of Helsinki, Finland*

A significant proportion of the rural population in 19th-century Finland were day labourers whose livelihood depended on casual work in the agricultural economy. Their position in the labour market differed in many ways from that of other agricultural workers, such as annual servants or crofters. Their working conditions were not regulated by legislation but were agreed with the farmer on a case-by-case basis, often based on local custom. The paper examines the coercive practices associated with the use of casual labour in farm economy and considers the extent to which day labourers were able to influence their terms of employment through the legal system. The findings of the paper are based on court cases from the province of Savo from 1820–1880.

Title: Feudal Organisation of Labour and Capitalist Markets in Swedish Ironmaking**Abstract ID: 58**Göran Rydén¹,¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

In recent historiography on capitalism, slavery and the plantation economy have a prominent position; some scholars even indicate that it was a precondition to the development of our modern society. A problem with this way of arguing is that no firm demarcation is made between ways of organising production and labour, and transactions made on the market. In my presentation, based on a forthcoming study of Swedish eighteenth century iron production, I will stress the importance of making such a distinction. The making of iron in the s.c. *Bruk* (large landed estates) were organised along feudal ties, but the marketing of the iron took place on a highly competitive global market. In particular, I will use early modern bookkeeping procedures as a way to entangle the links between the two spheres.

Session: S-11-08 - Hus, hushåll och sociala praktiker i svenska städer 1600 – 1850**Date: 15-08-2025 - 16:00 - 18:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Hus och hushåll**Abstract ID: 499**Dag Lindström¹, **Göran Tagesson**,¹¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

I detta paper presenterar vi en metod för analys av interaktionen mellan hus och människor. Angreppssättet är tvärvetenskapligt och bygger på en kombination av arkeologi under mark, stående byggnader och skriftligt källmaterial. Perspektivet är biografiskt och ägnar stor uppmärksamhet åt husens, hushållens och boendets temporalitet. Husen analyseras utifrån olika faser såsom byggnation, brukande, om- och tillbyggnader, nytt brukande, etcetera. Hushållens förändringar och cykler analyseras både på aggregerad och individuell nivå. Husens och hushållens livslopp fogas sedan samman till en integrerad biografisk analys.

Här presenteras även konkreta empiriska resultat som visar på stora förändringar i den urbana bebyggelsen, i bostadshusens utformning, i hushållsstrukturer och i boendeformer under 1700-talet. Bland annat blev bostadshusen större och mer komplexa, hushållens storlek och sammansättning förändrades, boendet förtätades och hyresboende blev mer vanligt ökade i omfattning och själva det urbana rummet ändrade karaktär. I det mikrohistoriska arbetssätt som vi praktiserar synliggörs också den individuella agensens betydelse i dessa processer.

Title: Lås och låsande**Abstract ID: 500**Linda Qviström¹,¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

Locks marks boundaries, that you are either permitted to pass or not. Giving someone access to a locked room or item, or, for that matter, not locking it, is a matter of trust and confidence. This is evident in all situations where people in different constellations share a home. Locks and lockable rooms or furniture are in

these contexts highly intervened in the social relation between people, and between people in relation to space and property.

The practices around locks and locking are strongly connected to the spatial organization of buildings, but the usage is also linked to furnishing and interior design. How buildings, rooms and spaces have been used, and by whom, is another important issue.

In this paper, the use of locks during the early modern period in Kalmar on the eastern coast of Sweden is in focus. The aim is to discuss locks and locking in relation to the built space on three urban plots. What has been locked where, in relation to the spatial structure of the buildings and plots and to the function of different spaces? How does this relate to the residents, and to different groups of residents?

Title: Staging heat and light. Dwelling and indoor environments during the early modern period

Abstract ID: 501

Gunhild Eriksson¹, **Linda Qviström**,¹

¹ *Uppsala University, Sweden*

The use of heat and light is closely intervened in the use of dwellings. In early modern houses, heat and light were facets that needed planning and maintenance. The availability varied between different social contexts but was for everybody something that partly formed the conditions for what could be done where and when.

Constellations of heat- and light sources and distinctive features in the rooms reflect conditions and strategies used to create indoor climates on different scales and light for various purposes.

In this paper, we present a recently started research project, in which we address heat and light in relation to spatial structures of houses, and in relation to what different spaces may have been used for, and by whom. The aim is to include a wide range of aspects that have affected indoor climate and light conditions in the analysis, in order to broaden the understanding of dwelling and dwellings.

We will present examples where different sources of heat and light have been used for specific activities, and where a deliberate effort to take account of the indoor climate is noticeable in the design of different rooms.

Session: S-11-09 - Border and border negotiations in controversial animal and plant production 1920-2020**Date: 15-08-2025 - 16:00 - 18:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: When mink and foxes cross borders**Abstract ID: 661**Anne Jorunn Frøyen ^{1,2},¹ *Universitetet i Agder, Norway*² *Jærmuseet, Norway*

To breed animals solely for their fur is controversial. In Norway, this practice will be illegal from February 2025, thereby ending a more than century old industry. This paper examines how fur breeding practices influenced perceptions of foxes and minks, the former a well-known animal that interacted with farming practices and wildlife and the latter imported from North America. As foxes and minks escaped the facilities and farms, the latter became a serious threat to other species, especially birdlife. By investigating how perceptions of these animals changed when they escaped from the confinement of the cage, this paper also studies how the cage served as a border that separated the outside from the inside and divided animals into categories of free and captured.

Title: A Hairy Situation: The Danish Fur Industry between Farming and Hunting**Abstract ID: 663**Rune Clausen ¹,¹ *Det Grønne Museum, Denmark*

Danish fur farming – somewhat unexpected – developed into a successful world leading industry in the 1960's. Traditionally market hunting and/or trapping has never played a large role in Denmark proper and experience with fur farming in Denmark before the early 1930's was non-existent. Inspired by Norway, a few entrepreneurs initiated fur farming in the 1930s, leading to rapid growth in the following decades.

Farming is viewed as integral to Danish national identity but the newcomers in the fur farming business were not per se included as part of the traditional farming segment. Neither were they seen as connected to hunting traditions. This paper seeks to explore the special position of fur farming between the traditional professional

boundaries and the oppositional dynamics that came into play as it developed over time; at times revered as industrious and successful, and at times facing heavy criticism as an abusive form of animal production. The situation for the Danish fur industry was teetering and as complex as ever when the Danish government decided to cull 17 million mink in November 2020 as a direct response to the COVID-pandemic – and de facto shut down the industry in a complex political and financial situation.

Title: ‘All plants that grow where we do not want it to grow.’ Agent Orange spraying in Norwegian forests.

Abstract ID: 664

May-Brith Ohman Nielsen ¹,

¹ *Universitetet i Agder, Norway*

Natural grown forests are ecosystems consisting of numerous plant and animal species, while 20th century cultivated commercial timber plantations strived to be monocultures of spruce and pine. To achieve the plantation ideal and production objectives in Norwegian forestry, helicopter herbicide sprayings were the recommended method by the authorities, and the preferred method by forest owners. The recommended chemicals were highly toxic and controversial. The critics saw forests as spaces that should be beyond the limits of herbicide spraying. The paper discusses how the borders in this area were sat, contested and negotiated; within conceptual frameworks, legislation and pesticide practices in forest landscapes.

Session: S-11-10 - Cultivating Democratic Citizens: Teaching history and History of teaching**Date: 15-08-2025 - 16:00 - 18:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: The paradox of democratic history teaching: balancing nationalism and cosmopolitanism with Swedish history**Abstract ID: 190**Pontus Larsen¹,¹ *Linköping University, Sweden*

In democratic societies, history education is tasked with fostering pupils' critical thinking and commitment to democracy and global citizenship. However, historically, history teaching has been, and continues to be, used to promote nationalist ideologies worldwide (Berger & Lorenz 2008). While normative values of democracy hold a significant place in the guidelines for the history curriculum in Sweden, the mere presence of these principles does not ensure pupil internalisation. This study examines how different value-fostering activities are expressed in history teaching, with the nation's political history at its core, specifically in Swedish middle schools. By analyzing 70 classroom observations, interviews, textbooks and assessments, the thesis demonstrates how Swedish and Nordic history shapes identity, offering both nationalist and anti-nationalist values. The study demonstrates continuity between the moral identity-building curriculum of the 19th-century 'folkskola' and today's education system. Through a temporally transcending Swedish 'we' and repeated historical narratives, pupils from diverse ethnic backgrounds encounter values similar to those taught in the early 1900s. While contemporary teaching is characterized by a strong discourse on empathy, human rights and equal value, when confronted with national history, these values become *Swedish values*, resulting in a new form of 'modern' democratic nationalism.

Title: History Education in the Borderlands**Abstract ID: 315**Martin Stolare¹, David Ludvigsson,² Cecilia Trenter,³¹ *Karlstad University, Sweden*² *Linköping University, Sweden*³ *Malmö universitet, Sweden*

History education in schools is predominantly characterized by methodological nationalism (Wimmer & Glick Schiller, 2022; Nordgren, 2021; Nordgren & Johansson 2015); this is the case in Sweden as well as in several other countries (Stolare, 2024). This means that historically significant teaching content includes processes, events, and actors that illuminate the development of central power. In border areas, schools face a challenge since the national curriculum does not directly align with the local transnational history culture. Eda, a Swedish municipality on the Norwegian border, is an example of such an area. Based on a practice-based subject didactic project, the research question to be addressed in the paper is: *what challenges but also opportunities do teachers face when developing history education that draws on a transnational history culture within the framework of the nationally oriented steering documents?* The empirical data material consists of transcriptions from the work of a research circle with in-service primary school teachers in Eda municipality who jointly develop and test lesson plans and tasks for history education about the local community and local history.

Title: Nation building, progressive education, and the pedagogical marketplace: The introduction of Swedish sloyd in Boston c. 1880-1900

Abstract ID: 91

Sasha Mullally¹, Anders Ottosson,²

¹ *University of New Brunswick, Canada*

² *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

At the close of the 19th century, and under the unifying banner of the “New Education”, advocates like Friedrich Fröbel, Maria Montezori, Rudolf Steiner, and John Dewey began circulating in new interconnected global contexts for school curriculum reform. Such well-known actors have received significant historiographical attention, but there were many other hopefuls whose lesser-known pedagogical ideas and concepts also increasingly crossed national borders at the same time. Some were successful, at least for a time and a place.

In this paper, we analyze the introduction of Swedish sloyd into the Boston schools of the 1880s, using the framework of a multi-layered and multi-level “pedagogical marketplace.” Such a concept has theoretical as well as methodological advantages to further our understanding of the dynamics shaping 19th century pedagogical discourse in general and the New Education in particular. Using national, local and community circulars against select repositories of correspondence, we present new social history insights into the entrepreneurial and net-working dimensions within this important era of educational reform. Highlighting strategies for knowledge

dissemination across borders, it also reveals the external and internal market challenges that reform agents of Swedish Sloyd faced when entering the American education system.

Session: S-11-12 - Norden och Krimkriget**Date: 15-08-2025 - 16:00 - 18:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Norden och Krimkriget**Abstract ID: 701**Martin Hårdstedt¹,¹ *Umeå universitet, Sweden*

Detta rundabordssamtal tar fasta på gamla och nya perspektiv på Krimkriget i norra Europa. Traditionellt har forskningen haft ett tydligt fokus på utrikespolitik. I detta samtal vill vi lyfta möjligheten att förstå Krimkriget och dessa konsekvenser för Norden ur nya perspektiv som nationalism, inrikespolitik och krigföring. Krimkriget utgjorde en vatten delare i Europeiska storpolitik. Europa gick in i en ny konfliktfylld periode efter ett antal årtionden av relativ stabilitet. Hur påverkade detta de nordiska länderna? Danmark och Sverige/Norge utgjorde självständiga stater medan Finland som storfurstendöme var en del av Ryssland. Hur påverkade detta länderna under konflikten? Deltagare i rundabordssamtalet kommer från alla de länder som påverkades av konflikten.

Session: S-11-13 - The connected histories of Roma in the Nordic region II**Date: 15-08-2025 - 16:00 - 18:00**

Abstract(s):

Title: Roma as Deviants of Capitalism**Abstract ID: 724**Chalak Kaveh¹,¹ *Volda University College, Norway*

The aim of my paper is to examine the communalities in the approaches of Nordic – and more broadly European – governments and societies towards Roma and Romani groups over the past 500 years. More precisely I will analyze what is known about the relationship and interactions between these groups and the respective societies and authorities during this period.

The central focus is on exploring the nature and characteristics of policies and attitudes towards Roma/ Romani groups, as well as to assess which “grand narratives” best explain the phenomenon of anti-Roma policies.

First, the paper aims to establish a historiography of the topic and to identify communalities (as well as differences) in the ways Nordic and European societies have interacted with the Roma/Romani groups – essentially mapping the current state of research. Second, it seeks to evaluate how effectively existing grand narratives contribute to our understanding of both historical and contemporary policies and attitudes toward these groups. The paper argues that the application of grand narratives, particularly those related to the changing conditions of capitalism (whether early or late), can provide a valuable context and overarching explanation for the long-term and geographically broad (European) nature of the so-called “Gypsy question”.

Title: “Famous Vagrant Mob”: Discourses on ‘Gypsies’, ‘Tramps’ and other ‘Begging Vagrants’ in Early 20th-Century Iceland

Abstract ID: 723

Guðmundur Hálfðanarson¹,

¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

During the first half of the last century, new type of foreign travellers began to frequent Iceland. Unlike ordinary foreign tourists, they did not come to the island to observe Icelandic nature or to visit historical sites. Rather, their intention was to collect money for their destitute families at home or to entertain the Icelanders with variety shows. To judge from numerous comments in the newspapers, these visits caused considerable concern, or even fear, among the Icelandic public, both because they found it hard to place the foreign visitors into the existing ethnic categories of the times and because they wanted to prevent “Gypsies” from settling in the country at a time when domestic vagrancy had been more or less eliminated. Here I want to explore the public discourses on the “foreign vagrant mob” – where did the Icelandic commentators learn the terms to describe and classify the visitors, how did they explain their existence and intentions, and how do these discourses fit into the history of Icelandic immigration debates.

Title: Agency and epistolary writing: a Nordic Romani family in the first half of the twentieth century

Abstract ID: 722

Sofiya Zahova¹,

¹ *University of Iceland, Iceland*

Members of a Kalderash Romani family who resided in several Nordic countries and have even ventured to Iceland before WWI, had been corresponding for a couple of decades during the first half of the twentieth century with Johan Miskow, a friend of the family since the time of their residence in Jutland. The content covered various aspects of the life of the family with updates. In terms of form, the letters followed the conventions of the epistolary genre of the time and were written primarily in Swedish with occasional phrases in Romani.

Based on the corpus of this written-by-Roma correspondence and the broader history of this family, the aim of the paper is to discuss several important issues in the broader context of the interpretation of Romani writing and Romani culture. We will question the notions of illiteracy and orality often attributed to the Roma, particularly when it comes to earlier periods of history. Furthermore, the paper

argues that written heritage and archival materials showcasing the Romani agency are more frequent than uncommon, as shown in recent research on Romani history in Eastern Europe and the Nordic countries

Title: The Testimony of Auschwitz Survivor, Milos Karoli, and His Legacy

Abstract ID: 710

Johanne Bergkvist¹, Natalina Jansen,²

¹ *Oslo byarkiv / Oslo City Archive, Norway*

² *Romano Kher, Norway*

Milos Karoli was one of four Norwegian Roma who survived the death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. Despite holding Norwegian passports, a large group of Roma were denied access to Norway in 1934. As a result, 66 Norwegian Roma were transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in January 1944, due to Himmler's Auschwitz decree. In the concentration camps Milos witnessed his whole family being murdered.

As a Holocaust survivor Milos was still denied access to Norway due to the racist clause in the Alien legislation until 1956. In 1959 he regained his Norwegian citizenship, but obstacles were still to come. Like other Roma survivors he had to fight for the right to compensation and war pension.

It was not until 2015, after Milos Karoli's death, that the Norwegian government made an apology for the racist exclusionary policy carried out against Norwegian Roma before and after World War II, and the consequences this had during the Holocaust.

Like many Holocaust survivors, Milos Karoli, found it difficult to share his experiences to his close family. Despite this, he managed to talk to journalist who published his story. His testimonies bear strong witness of the personal experiences of young Norwegian Roma during the Holocaust. Historian Johanne Bergkvist and Milos Karoli's granddaughter, Natalina Jansen, will discuss his legacy.

Title: Mainstream Riot Grrrls: The content and conditions of 90's feminism in Sweden, the example of Bang

Abstract ID: 75

Rachel Pierce¹, **Anne Berg**,¹

¹ *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

Third wave feminism conjures up images of zines, Bikini Kill, and No Doubt – of Angry Young Feminists. Much research has focused on this branch of Riot Grrrl feminism, using postmodern theory to unpack this generation's feminism. But how did this small clique of persons influence an entire generation? This paper examines a key example of Swedish 1990s feminism – the feminist magazine *bang*. *bang* originated as a women's student initiative at Stockholm University and became the most visible example of mainstream popular feminism in print culture through the 1990s and 2000s. By exploring both *bang*'s archive and the magazine, we analyse the feminist and class politics of *bang*, as well as its economic conditions. We show how this example of 1990s feminism emerged from the academy and was translated into mainstream popular culture through the work of a small group of women whose position in various systems – economic, political, educational – informed the development (and limits) of that feminism.