



Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic

Scandinavian Studies Newsletter

Spring 2020

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A Message from the Program Chair

Greetings from the Nordic Unit of the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic! We hope this newsletter finds you well, and that you are managing to stay healthy and safe.

As I'm sure you know, this semester has been most unusual because of the coronavirus pandemic. Shortly before spring break, students were encouraged not to return to campus. Students studying abroad were asked to return to the US. And faculty and academic teaching staff were all required to move their courses online. Van Hise Hall, the physical home of the Nordic Unit, is now an empty building, which we cannot access. We've all done our utmost to make this strange semester a pleasant learning experience for our students. They are, after all, our highest priority. Our students have been remarkably accommodating, but several of them have expressed sadness about the lack of in-person classes. Needless to say, we, too, miss seeing our students in person and just the general chats together as colleagues in the hallway or in our offices. We're all hoping for some sort of normalcy by September, but we will not know for a while.

Despite all of this, we have some good news. In September, we will be joined by two new colleagues (assistant professors), who will bring to us a lot of expertise within the field of Scandinavian Studies. They will both be featured in our fall 2020 newsletter. We will also be joined by graduate students, who have chosen the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic, in which to study for the master's or Ph.D. degrees. They, too, will be featured in the fall newsletter.

We wish you a pleasant summer and hope this newsletter will provide some good reading material for you.

- Program Chair, Kirsten Wolf

Photo credits

Cover photo: *The Carillon Tower at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is pictured with late spring tulips on May 23, 2019. (Photo by Bryce Richter / UW-Madison)*

Above: *Flag bearers make their way down the center aisle at the start of UW-Madison's spring commencement ceremony outdoors at Camp Randall Stadium at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on May 14, 2016. The outdoor graduation was attended by approximately 5,600 bachelor's and master's degree candidates and their guests. (Photo by Bryce Richter / UW-Madison)*

In This Issue

Spring 2020

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

Page 4: **Congratulations, Dean Krouk!**

Page 4: **New Publication from GNS Chair Thomas A. DuBois**

Page 5: **Danish Author Carsten Jensen Visits Campus**

Page 5: **Amber Rose Cederström Joins University of Wisconsin Press Staff**

Page 6: **2020 Wahlstrom Nordic Workshop**

Page 6: **Alumni Update: David Natvig**

Page 7: **Alumni Update: Lucas Annear**

Page 8: **Symposium on "Saints and Spirituality in Medieval and Early Modern Iceland"**

Page 9: **Graduate Student Abroad: Tristan Mueller-Vollmer**

Page 10: **GNS Graduates**

Page 11: **UW International Internship Program**

Fall 2020 courses now open for enrollment!

SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES 407
OLD NORSE
LEARN THE AMAZING LANGUAGE OF THE VIKINGS

FALL 2020
TR 9:30-10:45 AM
INSTRUCTOR: KIRSTEN WOLF
TAUGHT IN ENGLISH
3 CREDITS

SCAND ST 427
Contemporary Scandinavian Literature



FALL 2020 • TR 4:00-5:15 pm • Instructor: Benjamin Mier-Cruz

Congratulations, Dean Krouk!



◀ GNS Professor Dean Krouk

His book, *Fascism & Modernist Literature in Norway* (2017), examines the intersections of literary modernism in Norway and fascist ideology. The study scrupulously avoids any claims that one arises from the other, but rather suggests that the intersections are caused by common reactions to an intellectual/historical context. They are characterized “as separate but at times converging reactions to shared sociohistorical preconditions” (23). Both involve a reaction against rationalism and materialism, among other things. Krouk focuses on four Norwegian writers who have relationships with both modernism and fascism: Knut Hamsun, Åsmund Sveen, Rolf Jacobsen, and Sigurd Hoel. The reviewer from *Norsk Litteraturvitenskapelig Tidsskrift* wrote: “The study is an innovative contribution to the scholarship of Norwegian Twentieth-Century literature, and an important part of the discussion about the connection between literature and politics.”

To no one’s surprise, Dean Krouk has been promoted to Associate Professor! Dean joined the former Scandinavian Department in the fall of 2015 as its new Norwegian professor and has now gained tenure in the relatively new Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic. Through all the changes, Dean has remained an active member of the team and has contributed greatly to our new, thriving Nordic Unit.

Before coming to Madison, Dean taught at both Pacific Lutheran University and St. Olaf College. He was able to hit the ground running and helped us to revive our history courses, and, of course, taught Ibsen with verve and skill. Dean took over our graduate Proseminar and transformed it into a class from which all three units can profit in terms of professional development for graduate students. In tandem with his research interests, Dean also developed new courses on interwar Nordic modernism and memory and literature.

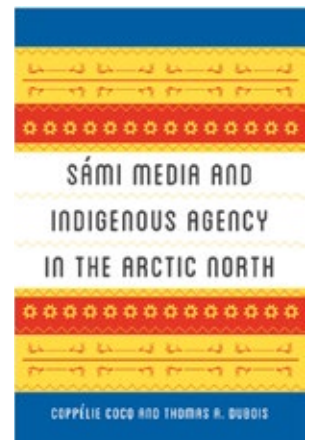
While Dean was teaching and researching, he still managed to contribute a great deal to helping our unit run smoothly, serving on search committees, the curriculum committee, the travel grant committee, and generally helping us all to navigate the administrative tasks of our newly-merged department. He is a valued colleague, well-respected in the field. It is worthy of note that even as a relatively young scholar, Dr. Krouk has been elected president of NORTANA (Norwegian Teachers and Researchers Association of North America) and is vice-president of the Ibsen Society of America, signs of the professional esteem in which he is held.

We are very pleased that he will continue to contribute to the vibrant legacy of Scandinavian Studies in Madison.

New Publication From GNS Chair Thomas A. DuBois

In 1908, the Sámi writer Johan Turi shared his insights on Sámi life by writing a book. That act initiated a new era in Sámi history, in which Sámi artists, musicians and intellectuals express the value of Sámi culture to an outside audience and to the Sámi themselves through diverse media, including books, visual arts, music albums, films, television, YouTube videos, and increasingly, social media posts on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. In their newly released monograph *Sámi Media and Indigenous Agency in the Arctic North* (University of Washington Press, 2020), Professor Tom DuBois and Coppélie Cocq from the University of Helsinki chronicle that work from the late 1970s to the present. The book was published in December of 2019 and is available from the University of Washington press.

Cover of Coppélie Cocq and Thomas A. DuBois’s new book ▶
Sámi Media and Indigenous Agency in the Arctic North



Danish Author Carsten Jensen Visits Campus

International best-selling Danish author Carsten Jensen visited campus in early February. Jensen's novel *We, the Drowned* from 2016 has sold hundreds of thousands of copies throughout the world. In Scandinavia, Jensen is also known as an essayist, newspaper columnist, and political commentator, and he is one of the most important public intellectuals in the past 30 years. He has been awarded many prizes for his fiction and nonfiction, including Denmark's coveted Golden Laurel for the travelogue *I Have Seen the World Begin*, and Sweden's prestigious Olof Palme Prize for his "work, in words and deed, to defend the weak and vulnerable in his own country as well as around the world."

During his visit to the Nordic Unit at UW–Madison, Carsten Jensen gave a well-attended talk on "Populism in Europe." He painted a different picture of Scandinavia than the rosy one often presented in the international media: a Scandinavia where xenophobia, racism, and strict anti-immigrant legislation reign. He talked about how the current political populism has its roots in a political elite that has forgotten the interest and welfare of ordinary citizens, using immigrants as a scapegoat to cover their own political shortcomings.

Mr. Jensen also contrasted the nationalism of Europe today with the nationalism a century ago, arguing that, back then, the nationalism was characterized by breaking down walls and borders, while today it is characterized by building them. His astute analysis of the current political situation was both engaging and thought-provoking, challenging everyone in attendance, sparking discussion and debate. And the many

students in attendance got to see first-hand how history and the past can be used to explain the present.

The following day, Mr. Jensen gave a more intimate talk for the Nordic Unit. Blending his own biography with his life as a public intellectual and writer, he gave a personal account of the importance of reading and writing, and how he, as a writer, always has seen it as his duty to fight for the vulnerable and speak out against human rights abuses throughout the world. It was a pleasure and honor to have Carsten Jensen visit campus. He provoked us, he challenged us, and he gave us a new perspective on the world we live in.

Carsten Jensen joins Nete Schmidt, Claus Andersen, and Pernilla Ipsen at the local Danish book club.



Amber Rose Cederström Joins University of Wisconsin Press Staff

Amber Rose Cederström joined the staff of the University of Wisconsin Press in February 2020, where she has started to acquire manuscripts in folklore, classics, and Slavic studies. She is also working to expand the Press's list in Nordic studies, which includes titles like *Black Fox: A Life of Emilie Demant Hatt* (Barbara Sjöholm, 2017), *Inari Sámi Folklore: Stories from Aanaar* (August Koskimies and Toivo I. Itkonen, 2018), and *Human Rights and Oppressed Peoples: Collected Essays and Speeches* (Georg Brandes, 2019). Several past and current members of the Nordic Unit were involved in these titles—Tim Frandy (Ph.D., 2013) edited and translated *Inari Sámi Folklore*, William Banks (Ph.D., 2013) edited Georg Brandes's collection, and GNS chair Thomas A. DuBois and academic staff member B. Marcus Cederström together edited the new volume, *Songs of the Finnish Migration: A Bilingual Anthology* (2020). With several new Nordic titles to be published this year and more in the pipeline, Amber is excited to help propel the field forward and contribute to the growth of scholarship on the cultures, histories, and peoples of the Nordic region.



2020 Wahlstrom Nordic Workshop

Students and staff headed out once again to the Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek, Wisconsin, for the 2020 Wahlstrom Nordic Workshop after last year's event was canceled due to inclement weather. This time, the weather cooperated, and attendees were able to spend a weekend together with sunny skies and snow-covered trails. Along with students and coworkers from Augustana; Finlandia; Gustavus Adolphus; Luther; Minnesota State University, Mankato; and the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, participants carved and weaved, threw axes and raced spark sleds, sang songs and learned to dance, watched films and practiced their Nordic language skills. This year, attendees heard presentations from young Nordic scholars on their experiences in the Nordic countries as well as their research into a wide array of topics. As is so often the case, the workshop gave students from around the region an opportunity to share their work, to learn from others, and to actively take part in the Scandinavian Studies community. As always, the Nordic Unit is so grateful to Norden Folk, who every year work hard to put together this amazing event for us and our friends at different colleges and universities throughout the Midwest. For anyone interested in Nordic and Nordic American cultural programming, please check them out online at VisitNordenFolk.org.



▲ Meri Lindeman and their students from Finnish throw the W at the Wahlstrom Nordic Workshop.

Alumni Update: David Natvig

David Natvig graduated in May 2018 with a Ph.D. in Scandinavian Linguistics from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He spent the 2018–2019 academic year teaching Norwegian, linguistics, and Nordic culture courses at St. Olaf College. In September 2019, he started a position as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Research Fellow at University of Oslo's Center for Multilingualism in Society across the Lifespan (MultiLing), where he is conducting a research project on Norwegian-English bilingualism in the American Upper Midwest.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions are European Commission funded grants that support researcher career development and training. David was awarded an Individual European Fellowship, which has the additional aim to connect specialists from across the world at European institutions in order to foster research collaboration. At MutliLing, David works alongside leading experts in a wide range of topics related to multilingualism, including language competence, language practices, and language policy.

David's research considers the linguistic patterns of American Norwegian as a heritage language, which today is typically only spoken by elderly individuals. Heritage languages are languages that are acquired as a minoritized language, usually at home, alongside a majority language, often learned later in life. Specifically, David analyzes the speech sounds of the Norwegian and English of contemporary American Norwegian speakers by drawing on present-day interviews and a set of recordings dating back to the 1940s.



and American Norwegian over time. Preliminary results suggest that a core of the Norwegian sound system has remained considerably resilient for generations.

Through his Master's and Ph.D. work at the University of Wisconsin, David gained valuable experience engaging in community-oriented fieldwork and research that is critical for his current project. He was able to meet and work with members of a number of Norwegian-American communities, and he's grateful that he has the opportunity to maintain those relationships, even from across the Atlantic. Furthermore, his language skills and the cultural knowledge of Norway and Scandinavia he received through his studies has allowed him to quickly transition into the working culture at the University of Oslo. Although Oslo is fast feeling like home, David looks forward to making research trips back to Wisconsin.

Alumni Update: Lucas Annear

Speech-Language Philologist. That's my unofficial title. Speech-Language Pathologist is my official title, and when parents or others outside of my field cock their head to the side in confusion at the title, I usually follow it up with "speech therapist." But there's a lot of knowledge that I bring to my job that didn't come from my education as a speech-language pathologist.

I graduated from UW–Madison in 2010 with majors in Scandinavian Studies and Linguistics, and again in 2012 with an M.A. in Scandinavian Studies focusing on Scandinavian Philology. After a slight "career change," I completed an M.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders, also from UW–Madison. I now spend my day-to-day in the Waterloo School District serving students with speech and language impairments between the ages of 3 and 9. Hence the unofficial title.

Knowing everything there is to know about language is far from necessary for doing speech therapy. Generally speaking, we all learn language just by hearing our caretakers speaking to us. Eventually we catch on and can talk back! So, in a certain sense, every parent conducts speech therapy just by talking to their kid; and most parents do some sort of speech therapy when they try to coach their offspring with those notoriously tough sounds like /l/ ("Not "yion", "lion!"). Although I work with a range of issues related to speech and language (from teaching non-verbal children how to communicate by using pictures, to teaching older elementary children how to communicate socially), my background helps me to appreciate the deeper structure of even the simplest word or sentence, and to see pieces of language change over time through the everyday speech of young children.



When kids have issues with pronouns (he, she, they, etc.), they overwhelmingly overuse object pronouns (saying "her did it" instead of "she did it") in the same way that object pronouns have had a habit of taking over pronoun systems in Germanic (in English we say "you" now instead of "thou" and "ye", and colloquially we say such things as, "me and my friends are going to a movie"). And when a teacher points out how so many students say "a" for both "a tiger" and "a elephant", it's a reminder that none of us would say "mine eye!" anymore if something was caught in it. There are a lot of ways to see a thousand years of language in a 4-year-old.

Symposium on “Saints and Spirituality in Medieval and Early Modern Iceland”

In the early fall of 2019, Kirsten Wolf was approached by two dear friends and colleagues within the field of Old Norse-Icelandic studies—Assistant Professor Dario Bullitta, University of Turin, Italy, and Associate Professor Natalie Van Deusen, University of Alberta, Canada (an alumna of the Department of Scandinavian Studies)—who suggested that she arrange a small symposium on religious literature in medieval Iceland here at UW–Madison. The symposium, which was entitled “Saints and Spirituality in Medieval and Early Modern Iceland,” took place on November 14th. Dr. Todd Michelson-Ambelang, Librarian for Scandinavian, Classics, and South Asian studies (an alumnus of the Department of Scandinavian Studies), graciously offered to host the symposium in the wonderful facilities of the Special Collections of Memorial Library. Prior to the symposium, Todd also arranged for an interesting exhibition of religious and hagiographical manuscripts. The presenters at the symposium were Dario Bullitta and Natalie Van Deusen.

Dario gave a paper on “A Book for Spiritual Ascent: Scribes and Items of AM 624 4to,” and Natalie’s talk dealt with “A Tale of Model Women: An Examination of *Kvendæmaþáttir*.” The symposium was well-attended and drew quite an audience from students, staff, and faculty from a number of departments. Little did Kirsten know that this symposium was just a scholarly pretext to give her a Festschrift as a birthday present. At the end of a symposium, she was—much to her surprise—presented with abstracts of a forthcoming book entitled *Sainthood, Scriptoria, and Secular Erudition in Medieval and Early Modern Scandinavia: Essays in Honor of Kirsten Wolf*. The volume includes articles by scholars within the field of Old Norse-Icelandic from Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, Iceland, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, and the United States. The volume is edited by Dario Bullitta and Natalie Van Deusen. An additional surprise was champagne, wine, treats, a birthday cake baked by Todd, and an unexpected visit by Kirsten’s son, Sune, who lives in Milwaukee. All of these arrangements were made behind Kirsten’s back, and she didn’t have a clue. Needless to say, Kirsten felt deeply touched by receiving such an unexpected and precious birthday present.



▲ Dario Bullitta and Natalie Van Deusen thank the audience and, specifically, Kirsten Wolf, at the symposium on “Saints and Spirituality in Medieval and Early Modern Iceland.”



◀ Dario Bullitta and Natalie Van Deusen reveal the publication of a Festschrift in honor of Kirsten Wolf.

Graduate Student Abroad: Tristan Mueller-Vollmer

Thanks to a generous fellowship from the American-Scandinavian Foundation, I have spent this academic year at Uppsala University in Uppsala, Sweden. My main purpose here has been to work on my dissertation on personal names found on Swedish Viking Age rune stones under the direction of one of my committee members, Professor Henrik Williams. Professor Williams is one of today's foremost runic and personal name scholars, so it is a great privilege to get to work with him so closely.

Being on-site in the Department of Scandinavian Languages here at Uppsala University has enabled me to easily collaborate in person with Professor Williams and to access the university library system, the department's library, the Scandinavian Onomastics Library in the National Archive (Seminariet för nordisk namnforskning), as well as Professor Williams' own collection, which he has generously allowed me to use. All of these fantastic resources have been immensely helpful for my dissertation. In addition, I have also attended all runic symposium meetings (*Runråd*) at the university that have taken place since my arrival, including the day-long runic conference in Gothenburg, October 10–11.

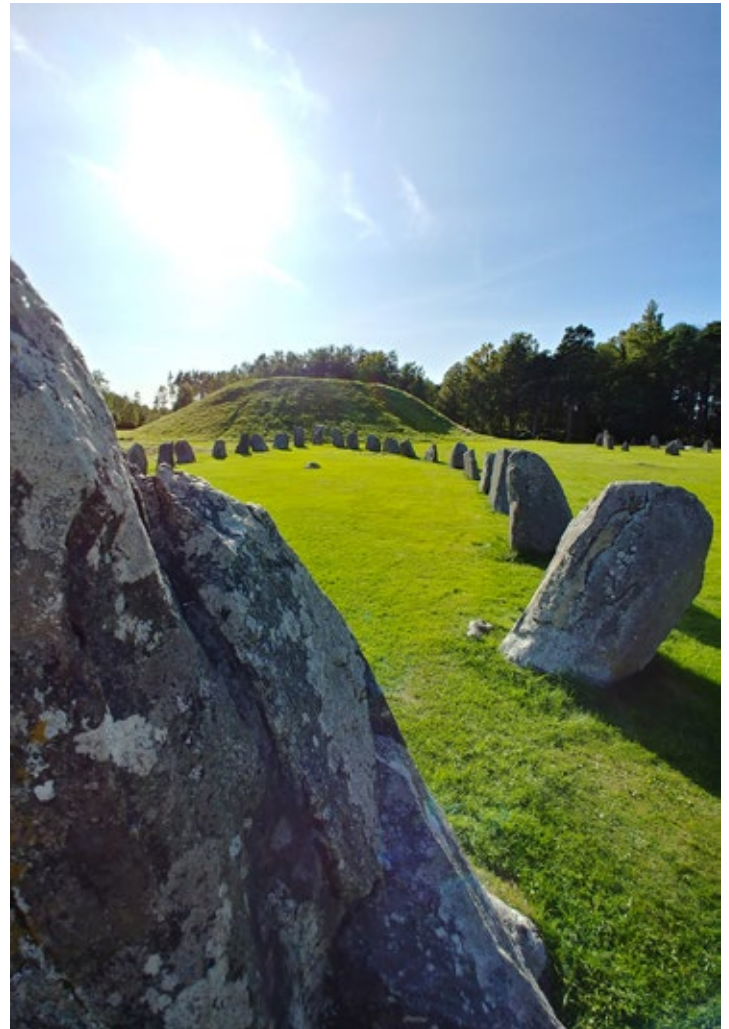
But my activities here haven't just been confined to campus. I have embarked on several "runestone safaris" to visit some important runestones in Sweden, which have included the Ramsund carving (which depicts scenes from *Völsunga saga*), the runestone and impressive burial mound complex at Anundshög, and the world-famous Rök runestone. I have also visited the pre-Viking Age burial mounds at Old Uppsala, and even seen some local petroglyphs from the Bronze Age. Some of my travels have taken me even further afield, for example to Bergen, Norway, to see the famous medieval runestaves discovered in the harbor, and to Jokkmokk, Sweden, to attend the 415th annual Sámi winter market. It has been an amazing year full of exciting opportunities and experiences, and I plan to return to Madison in the fall to finish my dissertation.



▲ Tristan in Rök, Sweden, visiting the Rök runestone, one of the most well-known runestones in the world.



▲ A reindeer amidst the crowds at the Jokkmokk Winter Market in the Swedish part of Sápmi.



▲ The burial mound complex at Anundshög near Västerås, Sweden.

GNS Graduates 2020

Congratulations to all of our amazing graduates! This group of graduates was an especially accomplished one with semester after semester of recognition on the Dean's List, as well as scholarships—like Eva Branson who received the ScanDesign Scholarship—and academic awards—like Eloise Healey who was named Academic All-Big Ten. Congratulations for your accomplishments and years of hard work. We look forward to seeing what's next for all of you and know that you will find success no matter where you go.

Graduate Students

- 2019 Bailey Green, M.A.
- 2019 Brett Mignin, M.A.
- 2019 Laura Moquin, M.A.
- 2020 Amber Rose Cederström, Ph.D.

Undergraduate Students

Majors

- *Eva Branson*
- *Eloise Healey*
- *Yiqin Li*

Certificates

- *Andrew Holzmann*
- *Aditya Krishnan*
- *Savannah McHugh*
- *Jiayi Zhang*

Awards

Undergraduate

- **Eva Branson:** Foreign Language and Area Studies Grant, Donald Leidel International Business Scholarship, Stanoch Research Grant
- **Eloise Healey:** UW–Madison Athletic Board Scholar Award

Graduate

- **Elliott Brandsma:** Dr. Herbert E. Harper, Jr. Memorial Scholarship from San Antonio Area Foundation, Institute for Regional and International Studies (IRIS) Training Fellowship, Vera Cronor Conference Travel Grant
- **Mirva Johnson:** Finlandia Foundation National Scholarship Award, UW–Madison Digital Salon's Best in Show Prize for documentary film "The Oulu Cultural and Heritage Center," Future Faculty Partner for the UW–Madison Teaching Academy, Wisconsin Idea Award, Vera Cronor Conference Travel Grant
- **Holly McArthur:** Foreign Language and Area Studies Grant for Norwegian language study, Vera Cronor Conference Travel Grant
- **Tristan Mueller-Vollmer:** American Scandinavian Foundation Fellowship for dissertation research at Uppsala University
- **John Prusynski:** Vera Cronor Conference Travel Grant
- **Richelle Wilson:** Barbara J. Morgridge Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in Scandinavian Studies

UW International Internship Program

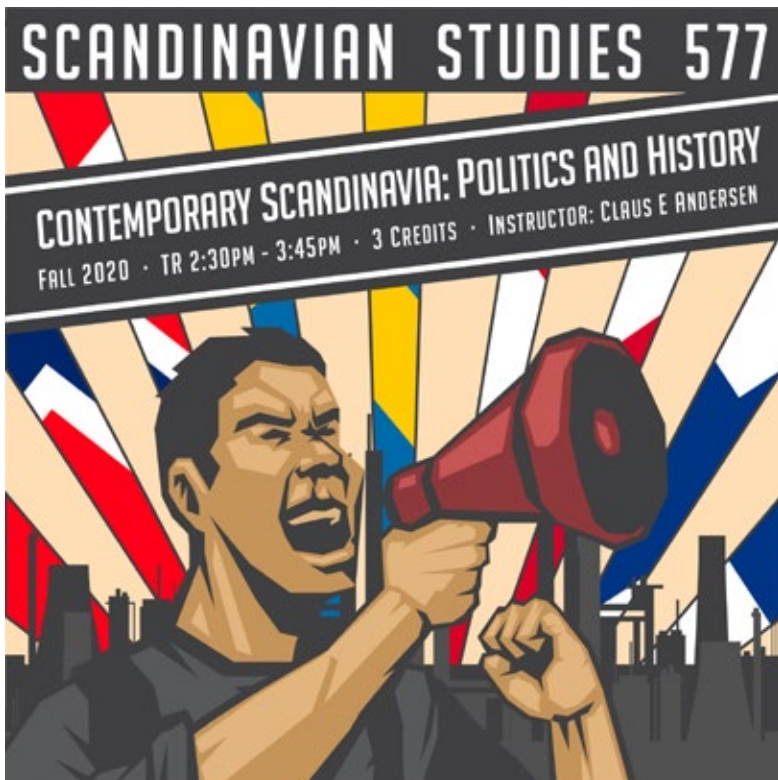
The UW International Internship Program (IIP) has been collaborating with Carecom A/S, a Copenhagen-based healthcare software company, to provide UW undergraduate students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in an internship setting. Interning with Carecom is an excellent fit for students interested in exploring the healthcare industry or developing their skills in communications, media, and event planning. This internship includes guaranteed funding provided by the Scan|Design Foundation Fellowship Program, which helps alleviate costs associated with the program.

Past Carecom interns have had exceptional experiences, as evidenced by some of our Instagram takeovers by our students Robert and Jing. IIP is excited to continue offering this opportunity to UW students, and interested students should make an appointment with Amani DeHolton to learn more. We also help students find their own internships in Scandinavia, and internships in Denmark may be eligible for Scan|Design funding as well.



▲ Jing, a former IIP intern, in the Carecom office with her coworkers.

Fall 2020 courses now open for enrollment!



Scandinavian Studies 577

Do they really pay you to go to college in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden? Are all the Scandinavian countries socialist? Are Scandinavians happier than Americans? And is there more racism in Scandinavian than elsewhere?

These are some of the questions that will guide our discussions in this course. We will discuss current issues in Scandinavian politics and culture: immigration, globalization, and the future of the welfare state. We will closely investigate the concept of hygge, discuss gender and sexuality, parenting, and education. But mostly, our discussion will be guided by your own interests in contemporary Scandinavian culture and politics.

Support Scandinavian Studies

Our sincere thanks to the many alumni and friends who have generously supported Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Private gifts are increasingly critical to ensuring that we maintain our stature as one of the nation’s best Scandinavian Studies programs. Your donations help us attract top faculty and graduate students, support our amazing undergraduate majors, and host a stimulating series of lectures, symposia, and other scholarly activities. Gifts of any size are most welcome and gratefully received.

There are several options if you’d like to donate.
If you wish to contribute online, please go to the University Foundation:

www.supportuw.org/?s=Scandinavian+studies

For more information on making a gift of securities or including Scandinavian Studies in your estate plans, please contact:

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Scandinavian Studies Newsletter Committee

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- Laura Moquin
- Tristan Matthias Mueller-Vollmer
 - Marcus Cederström
 - Elliott Brandsma

Be sure to check out gns.wisc.edu/nordic
for past newsletters and our upcoming issues.

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