



Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic+

Scandinavian Studies Newsletter

Spring 2024

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Greetings from the Program Chair

Greetings and best wishes for a pleasant summer to our friends, alumni, and donors from students, staff, and faculty in Scandinavian Studies.

I'm writing this little note on the last day of class and after our last Nordic unit meeting this academic year. I think faculty, staff, and students are all looking forward to a bit of rest, yet parting at the end of the year is always bittersweet. We work very closely together during the academic year, and then we suddenly disperse for a couple of months to do fieldwork, do research, and now and then take a little vacation. But we feel very good about our accomplishments this year, which culminated in a wonderful reception on May 2 to honor students receiving their degrees in Scandinavian Studies this year, be it a certificate, a major, an MA, or a PhD. At the same event, we celebrated Claus Elholm Andersen's tenure and promotion to associate professor. Claus's most recent publication, a book on Karl Ove Knausgård, is featured in this newsletter.

Our newsletter also provides insight into some of our many other activities in spring 2024. There was, for example, a dinner with Liesl Chatman, a folk artist-in-residence; a talk by Laura Michele Diener on the author Sigrid Undset; and the annual Wahlstrom Workshop. Moreover, one of our undergraduates tells about her experience studying in Denmark. Finally, at the end of the newsletter, faculty, staff, and students feature their four-legged friends.

Next year marks the 150th anniversary of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. We are in the process of planning events to mark this important milestone. Stay tuned!

- Program Chair, Kirsten Wolf

Photo credits

Cover photo: Bascom Hall and the central University of Wisconsin-Madison campus are pictured in an aerial view during a sunny autumn day on Oct. 22, 2023. Major campus facilities clockwise from the bottom left include Birge Hall, Chamberlin Hall, Van Vleck Hall, Sterling Hall, the Medical Sciences Center, and Van Hise Hall. The photograph was made from a helicopter looking west. (Photo by Jeff Miller / UW-Madison)

Above: Library Mall is full of people enjoying the warm spring day and viewing the maximum 86-percent solar eclipse at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on April 8, 2024. The Astronomy Club sold solar eclipse glasses and had telescopes available for public use. (Photo by Althea Dotzour / UW-Madison)

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2025 marks the 150th anniversary of Scandinavian Studies at UW-Madison!

Stay tuned for more about this special anniversary in our Fall Newsletter.

Sustaining Scandinavian Studies
in the 21st Century

Dinner with Liesl Chatman, Folk Artist-in-Residence

After three months in Madison, scores of students, multiple public presentations, and quite a few new spoons, Liesl Chatman's folk artist residency came to an end. Chatman, a spoon carver and kolroser, creates beautiful works of art with each new spoon carved. At the same time, she engages with questions about social justice, migration, sustainability, and what it means to work in and with a community.

The spoons that Liesl makes are meant to be used. They are, first and foremost, spoons. They are beautiful and kolrosered and exhibition-worthy. And they are meant to be used to eat oatmeal and soups and curries and blueberry pie. To celebrate Chatman's residency, we hosted a dinner on campus to reflect, to share, and to be in community all while eating with the very spoons that Liesl has carved since she began documenting her life and community through spoons and kolrosing. At this meal, those spoons would be used to eat, as intended, but also to spark conversation.

With spoon in hand, we found a seat, we found a bowl, and we found ourselves eating with family and new friends. We shared stories and memories of the past few months. We also shared our reflections on why we had chosen the spoon we had chosen, what connections we might have to the spoon or the kolrosing. Perhaps most important, we listened quietly and deeply to each other as we sat around the table in community.

This meal, these spoons, this residency was a reminder to all who participated that traditional knowledge and folk arts are (and should continue to be) an important part of our everyday lives. They help us present ourselves to our friends and family and to the world at large. The folk arts that are a part of our lives every single day help make us who we are. Chatman's spoons document the last few years of her life, and through a traditional folk art she makes connections between the past and present, connections between traditional knowledge and contemporary issues, and asks that we all engage with what it means to be in and create community.

Dinner with family and friends and dozens of wooden spoons was a perfect culmination to an already amazing few months.



Above: Spoons waiting to be chosen for dinner. Photo credit: Thomas Harb



Above: Attendees choose a wooden spoon before dinner. Photo credit: Thomas Harb



Above: Attendees share a meal together celebrating Liesl Chatman's residency. Photo credit: Thomas Harb

Folklorists at the American Swedish Institute's Midwinter Folk Fest

As part of an ongoing collaboration between the Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Arts in the Upper Midwest (SSFAUM) project and the American Swedish Institute (ASI) in Minneapolis, Drs. Marcus Cederström and Carrie Danielson attended the Midwinter Folk Fest to document the event and moderate panels. By the end of the weekend, the two had taken over 1,000 images, filmed 10 hours of video, moderated 6 Nordic folkways panels, and eaten a donut swimming in the largest plate of glaze that either one of the fieldworkers had ever seen.

Bringing together musicians and dancers from around the Upper Midwest, ASI's two-day music festival featured workshops, jam sessions, concerts, and social dances amplifying and celebrating the unique cultural traditions of Nordic America. These collaborative projects speak to the importance of and interest in folk and traditional arts.

Building and sustaining relationships with not just organizations like ASI, but also musicians and bands, youth dance groups and seasoned dancers, interested community members and cultural leaders, is just one aspect of the outreach that is central to the project's work. Just as important to collaborative public programming and productions like this one is the rigorous ethnographic research that Dr. Danielson has conducted over the last year-and-a-half in collaboration with youth dance groups like the Vasa Junior Dancers. Cultural programs like this one are made better when they are grounded in strong, community-engaged research and we are proud to be able to offer programs like this on campus, and in collaboration with partners around the region.



Above: Dr. Carrie Danielson, postdoctoral public folklore scholar, moderates a panel at the Midwinter Folk Fest. Photo credit: Marcus Cederström.



Above: Dr. Marcus Cederström and MaryPat Kleven prepare for a panel discussion about Upper Midwestern music traditions at the Midwinter Folk Fest. Photo credit: Carrie Danielson



Above: The ASI Spelmanslag performs at the Cedar Cultural Center. Photo credit: Carrie Danielson

Upcoming Events from the Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Arts in the Upper Midwest Project

Celebrating Young People in Scandinavian American Folk Music and Dance

May 4, 6:30pm
Folklore Village, Dodgeville, WI

Pioneer Village and Somali Museum Field Trip Collaboration

May 24, 10:00am
Pioneer Village in Cameron, WI

Indigenous Cultural Capacity Building: Wisconsin-Sámi Collaborations Trip

June 7–16
Snåsa, Norway

Duluth-stämman

June 7–8
Duluth, MN

FinnFest

July 24–28
Duluth, MN

Nordic Fest

July 25–27
Decorah, IA

Check the events page for more details: folklife.wisc.edu/events/

"Sigrid and the Sagas: Norway's Golden Past in the Writings of Sigrid Undset"

On March 1st on zoom, after a short postponement, Laura Michele Diener, professor of History at Marshall University, gave a public talk about her biography of the Norwegian Nobel prize-winning writer Sigrid Undset titled *A World Perilous and Beautiful*. This book will be the first English-language biography of Undset. She received the Hazel Rowley prize for this project in 2022.

The talk was co-sponsored by the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic+, the Department of History, the Jay and Ruth Halls Visiting Scholar Fund, and the Anonymous Fund. Around fifteen people attended, ranging from students in Medieval Studies at UW Madison, to faculty members at neighboring institutions.

Professor Diener traced Sigrid Undset's life and work, noting her close relationship with her father, the Norwegian archaeologist Ingvald Martin Undset, and her early interest in history and languages. She placed Undset's work in the context of Norwegian nation-building and political activism in the 19th century, contrasting the "cold impersonality of modernity"

with the Norwegian medieval golden age and its "spirit of religiosity and communality." The religiosity of the Middle Ages drew Undset to Catholicism, and Professor Diener discussed her conversion, the resulting controversy, and the delay it caused in the Nobel committee's recognition of her work.

Finally, she covered Undset's activities just before and during the Second World War: her denouncement of Nazism, her escape to the United States, and her activism and relationships with other intellectuals during her life in New York.

Following the talk, Professor Diener held a question and answer session, discussing the reception and popularity of Sigrid Undset in the United States, and practical aspects of the archival research she conducted into her life. Thank you to Professor Diener for a highly engaging and informative presentation.

The book *A World Perilous and Beautiful: A Life of Sigrid Undset*, will be published with University of Minnesota Press in Fall of 2025.



Above: Norwegian Krumkake or Swedish "Rullerån" were one of the many nordic treats that participants had the chance to make and sample at the Wahlstrom workshop (Photo by Carrie Danielson). Below: Participants folk dancing with Finn Hall (Photo by Scott Mellor).

Wahlstrom Workshop

From February 23-25, 2024, students, faculty and staff, community members from across the upper midwest gathered at the Beaver Creek Nature Reserve in Fall Creek, Wisconsin. UW–Madison was well represented by 27 people and enjoyed the opportunity to connect and reconnect with scholars and students of Scandinavian studies from UW-Eau Claire, Minnesota State University, Mankato and St. Olaf College. This year's theme was Scandinavian Food and participants were served a number of wonderful nordic inspired meals by board members, volunteers, and students from the UW Eau Claire Geography Department.

Students attended lectures on Nordic Coffee Culture, Nordic Food and Sustainability, and Nordic uses of sugar and spice. Other cultural activities included folk dancing with the Finn Hall Trio, wood carving, weaving, and sampling and making traditional treats. Despite the absence of snow for skiing or spark racing, attendees were able to explore the many trails on the reserve and enjoy sunny, cold walks through the woods, and of course, enjoyed the annual Jerry Revelle Memorial Ax Casting contest.

Photos by Carrie Danielson photos.app.goo.gl/M7FSEqjz37rfkNqi9



Dr. Sallie Anna Pisera's Outreach Initiatives

C SUMC research fellow Dr. Sallie Anna Pisera is launching a series of outreach initiatives this summer in fulfillment of the public programs aspect of her postdoctoral project, "Interwoven Roots and Routes: Somali and Scandinavian Women Crafting Transnational Community." The initiatives are undertaken with program partners, the Somali Museum of Minnesota and the Barron County Historical Society's Pioneer Village Museum, and will be hosted at Pioneer Village and at the Barron Public Library. The programs are intended to highlight historical Scandinavian heritage and emergent Somali Heritage in Barron County, WI, a key field site in Dr. Pisera's research. The programs, which include a field trip for K-12 students, a craft workshop, and a cultural festival, feature traditional artists from the Somali and Scandinavian communities in Barron County and the surrounding area.

The craft workshop and cultural festival are free and open to the public, and Dr. Pisera welcomes Nordic Unit partners to attend. The craft workshop

will be hosted on Wednesday, June 5 from 3-6pm at the Barron Public Library (10 N 3rd St, Barron, WI 54812). The workshop, held as a supplement to the library's regularly scheduled Stitching Hour & Community Night, features hands-on demonstrations of Norwegian and Sámi band- and fingerweaving taught by Laurel Sanders (Duluth, MN) and Somali kebed weaving taught by Ardho Ismail, Amina Shire, Xalwo Duale and Hawa Aden, artists-in-residence with the Somali Museum of Minnesota. The cultural festival will be held on Saturday, July 20 from 10am-5pm at Pioneer Village Museum (1866 13 1/2 - 14th Ave, Barron WI 54822). The festival will feature cooking demonstrations, craft workshops, cultural presentations and discussions, dance performances and workshops, and live music and dancing to close out the day. A full schedule and line-up of performers for the festival will be available at sumc.wisc.edu in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please direct inquiries to Dr. Pisera at sallieanna.pisera@wisc.edu.

Takk iyo mahadsanit!

SASS 2024

S ASS 2024 will be held in Seattle, hosted by the University of Washington and the National Nordic Museum, from May 9th to May 11th. This year, the presidential theme is "Movement", which, the planning committee writes, "invites us to examine the extent to which concepts that we assume to be fixed, stable, and unmoving may in fact be kinetic, malleable, and in motion."

UW-Madison will be represented by graduate students and faculty members, presenting on a variety of topics. Professor Susan Brantly will give a talk titled, "P.C. Jersild's *Ypsilon* (2012): Postmodernism, Metafiction, and Social Purpose," arguing that "Jersild writes postmodern prose with a social purpose." Professor Dean Krouk will participate in a stream to honor the work of Mark Sandberg on the 20th anniversary of his book *Living Pictures, Missing Persons*, and will present on "Explosive Rhetoric: The Domestic Architecture of Nordahl Grieg's Drama *Men imorgen* (1935)." Ida Moen Johnson will give a talk called, "How to Read Like an Animal: Methods in the Nordic Studies Classroom."

Five of the department's graduate students will also be giving papers. In literary studies, John Prusynski will discuss "Queerness as Indigenous Resistance in Sámi Literature," and David Smith will be presenting "Tuning the harp: Ivar Aasen and the beginnings of song," exploring how Aasen's poetry is intertwined with his project of assembling the new language standard of Landsmaal (present-day Nynorsk). Two of our graduate students will also present on medieval women. Rachel Bott will be giving the paper, "Monstrosity and Disability in the Swedish Medieval Ballad *Jungfrun förvandlad till lind*," reading the transformed body of the eponymous maiden through the overlap of monster theory and disability studies, and Ailie Westbrook will be presenting "'She is afraid to die': Contraception in Medieval Denmark." In linguistics, Mirva Johnson will give a paper called, "Identifying the dialectal background of American Finnish speakers using supervised machine-learning models" in collaboration with Ilmari Ivaska. Svea Larson will present her research about Swedish-American cooks in a paper entitled, "Sautéing across the Atlantic."

Karen Keenan's Hairwork Workshop

On April 9th, the Center for Design and Material Culture and the [Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures](#) hosted hairwork artist [Karen Keenan of Hemslojd Studios](#) for a research visit to the Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection and workshop in traditional Swedish hairwork techniques.

During her visit to Madison, Karen examined the many hair and wool wreaths from the mid-1800s to early 1900s in the HLAC collections. She was able to identify a number of different techniques that these artists used and help explain the ways that the craft evolved when hair work fell out of fashion in the 1930s. During her workshop to 20 UW-Madison staff and students, she presented a brief history of hair jewelry's likely origins in lace and wig making, interweaving her own family's history and her journey into hairwork. Karen apprenticed with master hairworkers in Våmhus, Sweden, the community known for its professional hair workers and the home village of her ancestors. Afterwards, she provided an introduction to hairwork

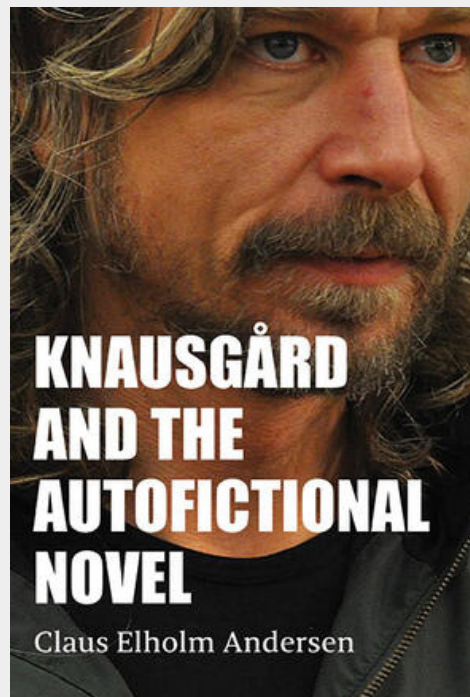
techniques that date from the 1700-1800's and demonstrated Swedish table hair weaving. Finally, participants had the opportunity to try out "gimping," a technique that involves wrapping hair and wire around a small stick, then shaping it into flowers, leaves, and other shapes for hair wreaths.

Photos by Svea: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/vodhuETE7Xb1JoFV8>

New Book Release

Knausgård and the Autofictional Novel (December 2023)

By Claus Elholm Andersen



Norwegian author Karl Ove Knausgård's six-volume, 3600-page autobiographical novel, *My Struggle*, has been widely hailed for its heroic exploration of selfhood, compulsive readability, and restless experimentation with form and genre. *Knausgård and the Autofictional Novel* explains why. Across four chapters, Claus Elholm Andersen shows how Knausgård confronts, challenges, and rejects the symbiotic relationship between novels and fiction, particularly via a technique of "auto-fictionalization." The fifth chapter then explores the further breakdown of this relationship in autofiction by Sheila Heti, Rachel Cusk, and Ben Lerner, taking readers to what Lerner called "the very edge of fiction." (description from the publisher, SUNY Press)



Claus Elholm Andersen is Paul and Renate Madsen Associate Professor of Scandinavian Studies in the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic+ at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Wisconsin Folksong Collection Added to the Library of Congress' National Recording Registry

On April 16th, 2024, the Library of Congress, following advice from the National Recording Preservation Board (NRPB), inducted the *Wisconsin Folksong Collection, 1937-1946* into the [National Recording Registry](#). Other notable 2024 entries include recordings from ABBA, Blondie, The Cars, The Chicks, The Notorious B.I.G., and the Finnish-American accordion virtuoso, Viola Turpienen, performing "Kauhavan Polkka with John Rosendahl in 1928.

Housed at Mills Music Library, the Wisconsin Folksong Collection combines separate but closely related field recordings made by Helene Stratman-Thomas and Sidney Robertson Cowell. Stratman-Thomas, a School of Music faculty member, recorded performers in the summers of 1940, 1941, and 1946, with support from UW-Madison and the Library of Congress. Sidney Robertson Cowell did her work in summer 1937 for the Special Skills Division of the federal government's Resettlement Administration.

Stratman-Thomas and Cowell's pioneering efforts with portable disc-cutting equipment captured over 900 performances in homes and public places throughout the state. All the recordings are [freely accessible online through the UW Library's Digital Collections site](#), where users are welcomed to stream tunes and songs, and view the images captured by these two remarkable researchers. In addition, the Wisconsin Historical Society houses [photographs from the collection](#) as well as several instruments featured in the recordings.

CSUMC co-founder James P. Leary, UW-Madison Professor Emeritus of Folklore and Scandinavian Studies, drew on this collection for his groundbreaking Grammy-nominated book and multi-CD set, *Folksongs of Another America: Field Recordings in the Upper Midwest, 1937-1946*. Leary explains that the recordings "exemplify the grassroots soundtrack of our many-splendored state from the 19th through the mid-20th centuries. Performed in 25 languages by Indigenous and immigrant rural and working-class communities, the Collection is not only an overdue Upper Midwestern addition to the National Recording Registry's overwhelmingly Eastern, Southern, and Western roster but also evidence of Wisconsin's vibrant longstanding cultural pluralism."

Among the vast representation of ethnic songs in the collection are recordings featuring Danish-, Finnish-, Icelandic-, Norwegian-, and Swedish-Americans, including an Icelandic song sung by Sigurline Bjarnarson and Christine Gudmundsen of Washington Island about an encounter with elves (*Ólafur reið með björgum fram/Olafur Rode Beneath the Cliffs*) and *Tulatullala, posket pullalla/Cheeks Full of Pulla* sung by Jalmar Nukala accompanied by Mamie Wirtanen Nukala on piano, among many others.

The unique contribution of the Wisconsin Folksong Collection warrants special attention. According to Leary, "it is the most diverse, equitable, and inclusive folksong field collection ever made for the Library of Congress, reminding us that we cannot fully grasp the richness of American roots music without recognizing the many peoples, tongues, and sounds that—whether past or present, from mainstream or margins, deservedly acknowledged or unjustly ignored—have always made America great."

Below are links to some Nordic Americans who are included in the collection:

Mrs. Brithe Lothe and Mrs. Hannah Haug: <https://search.library.wisc.edu/digital/ANBRJGIWFXJYQ68A>

Ruth Olson and Alice Carlson: <https://search.library.wisc.edu/digital/AB4DPAIGTUBLEF8P>

Karl Bjarnarson: <https://search.library.wisc.edu/digital/ACEANVU5GWADTD8A>

Remembering Professor Emeritus Richard (Dick) Ringler

By Scott A. Mellor

Richard (Dick) Ringler, a longtime member of the Department of Scandinavian Studies, passed away on the 23rd of February 2024. Ringler was born in Milwaukee in 1934 and began at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the English department in 1961. He used to relate that on the day after getting tenure, Helen C. White called and asked what his next project was to be. Through teaching Beowulf, he became interested in Scandinavian Studies. Ringler often related how by reading the notes and comparisons, he became fascinated with Old Norse literature. In the late 1960s, he took the family to Iceland where he learned Icelandic. Soon after, he split his appointment with Scandinavian Studies and was three times chair.

During his tenure at Madison, he wrote on topics ranging from Old English and old Norse studies, was part of a series, *Dilemmas of War and Peace*, a topic that was dear to him, and wrote a book entitled *Bard of Iceland: Jónas Hallgrímsson, Poet and Scientist*. He wrote and published his own poetry and gave a reading with his son, Thor. One of his most popular lectures in later days was on the bombing of Dresden. After retirement in 2002, he went on to study German and Bach. He was a much beloved teacher by graduate and undergraduate students alike. He will be missed. Dick Ringler is survived by his wife, Karen, daughter, Tamsie, and son, Thor.

Lowell Brower Now a Permanent Member of Folklore Teaching Faculty

With the help of the Building Nordic Folk Arts Community and Capacity grant, GNS+ is happy to welcome Lowell Brower as a permanent member of the Folklore Teaching Faculty. See Lowell's bio below!



UW-Folklore Program Alum ('04), and former Director of Undergraduate Studies for Harvard's Committee on Degrees in Folklore and Mythology, Lowell Brower—who was brought back to UW-Madison in 2022 through the Building Nordic Folk Arts Community and Capacity grant—has accepted an offer to join the Department of GNS+ as a permanent member of the Folklore Teaching Faculty. A specialist in Upper Midwestern Folklife, East-African Oral Traditions, Post-Conflict Storytelling, and Internet Culture, Lowell has developed several new popular courses for the Program, including “Supernatural in the Modern World,” “Badgerlore & Campus Traditions,” “Internet Folklore & Online Communities,” and “The Folklore of Emergency.” Lowell is currently engaged in two distinct research projects: one focused on vernacular memory practices and the politics of storytelling in recently resettled East African refugee communities in the Upper Midwest, and another focused on supernatural storytelling, otherworldly beliefs, and the politics of the paranormal in Wisconsin. In the coming years, along with completing his first book and (hopefully) winning his first Wisconsin State Cow Chip Throw, Lowell aims to continue to grow the UW-Folklore Program by introducing new courses on Foodways, Fan Communities, The Folklore of Migration & Displacement, and Cow-Lore & Cattle Cultures.



Abroad in Denmark

By Ellie Hart

I'm studying abroad in Denmark with the University of Copenhagen exchange program. In the weeks before I left the US, I got so afraid that I almost canceled the whole thing, but I've made a complete 180 and never want to leave! It's amazing how an entire city can feel so kind and trusting of each other. All the Danes I've met are patient while I practice the language, and I've already improved so much just from interacting with people I meet throughout the day. I'm also part of the ScanDesign scholarship program, which has been a really positive influence on my time here. I made a lot of instant friendships with the students in the program and I would encourage anyone planning on studying abroad in Denmark to apply.

I'm enrolled in two neuropharmacology classes and a course on Egyptian hieroglyphics, which are all fascinating so far. The university invites experts from all over the world for seminars and guest lectures, and we've had lectures from multiple pharmacology

professionals and researchers in my classes. The humanities department here is so well developed and there are libraries full of original documents and materials from the time periods we're studying.

I can't say enough about how much I love it here. There are a hundred tiny things that I fall completely in love with every time I leave my dorm: flower stands in the metro station, overgrown cemeteries, little kids in tiny matching ski suits, red tiling on every roof, people ice dipping in the harbor, all the pastel exteriors, raisin buns... and this library, which is one of my favorite parts of campus!

Carrie Ann Danielson on Music, the Midwest, and Nordic Connections

Carrie Ann Danielson has been a postdoc at the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures during the 2022-2024 academic years. Read below about the interesting ways that her work intersects with Nordic Studies.

Q: What are your scholarly and teaching interests and how do these intersect with Nordic studies?

My primary research and teaching interests lie at the intersections of Nordic studies and children's music and dance cultures, music and migration, care ethics, community music, and public folklore. I am a musicologist by training but have had the fortune of engaging with these topics in a very interdisciplinary way, most recently as a Postdoctoral Fellow in Public Folklife under the Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Arts in the Upper Midwest grant.

I am currently working on two big projects related to Nordic Studies. The first is an ethnographic book project titled *Culture Guaranteed? Music, Migration, and Relations of Care*, which is based on my research in Simrishamn, Sweden and focuses on the perspectives of young refugees and asylum-seekers from Syria and Afghanistan participating in the local *kulturskola* (municipal arts school). The second is a public production titled *Celebrating Young People in Scandinavian American Folk Music and Dance*, which is based on my postdoctoral work with youth folk music and dance groups in the Upper Midwest.

Q: You received a postdoc to do work at the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures. What has your work and experience been like there?

It has been incredible. Drs. Anna Rue and Marcus Cederström have been wonderful mentors and have pushed me to think critically about how universities can (and should) ethically engage with community partners. My postdoctoral experience has not only opened doors for new projects centering on young people's engagement with Scandinavian American folk music and dance in the Upper Midwest, but has also further developed my skills in public folklore and applied ethnomusicology. As someone who grew up in Mora, Minnesota—a small, Scandinavian-American town in the Upper Midwest—it has been especially



meaningful to use my academic training to collaborate with artists, musicians, and communities in this region. I am very grateful for the experience.

Q: You recently accepted a new position as Assistant Professor of Musicology in Community Music at Florida State University. Congrats! What are you most looking forward to about your new job?

Thank you! While I will dearly miss the UW-Madison community, I am excited to continue engaging with local communities while also pursuing academic teaching, research, and mentoring. That, and no longer having to shovel my driveway.

See <https://folklife.wisc.edu/event/celebrating-young-people-in-scandinavian-american-folk-music-and-dance/> for updates on Danielson's postdoctoral work.

Congratulations to the following students for earning certificates and degrees from our programs in Spring of 2024!

Bradley Bekkum, B.S. in Scandinavian Studies

Elissa Erickson, Certificate in Scandinavian Studies

Maria Gleason, B.A. in Scandinavian Studies

Fiona MacCrimmon, Certificate in Scandinavian Studies

Victoria Ochotnický, Certificate in Scandinavian Studies

Zachary Paronto, B.S. in Scandinavian Studies

Benjamin Wilson, M.A. in Scandinavian Studies

Lauren Poyer, PhD in Scandinavian Studies (December 2023)

Congratulations to the following Nordic graduate students who recently received fellowships and scholarships to support their work!

Rachel Bott earned the Birgit Baldwin Fellowship in Scandinavian Studies from the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS). Rachel will conduct dissertation research in Scandinavia during AY24-25.

Holly McArthur earned the Leifur Eiríksson Foundation Fellowships. She will do research in Iceland during AY24-25.

Elliot Brandsma received an American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) fellowship and a FLAS scholarship for language study.

Shawn Hansen received a FLAS scholarship for language study.

Nordic Pet Bios



Dr. Epictetus Cederström

Dr. Epictetus Cederström, Tetus to her friends, Dr. T to her students and coworkers, is enjoying her “retirement.” The professor emeritus of lounging and former Felis Catus Endowed Chair of Scratches is currently developing a new unignorable method of meowing, designed to compel immediate and sustained attention from her human partners. She has an advanced contract with UW Press based on the work, tentatively titled “I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream Because I Need Brushing.” In addition, she is participating in an autoethnographic analysis of familial roles in multigenerational households. She intends to deliver a scathing analysis of the role of toddlers on both physical and mental health at SASS in Seattle. She no longer travels but is improbably confident that she can figure out Zoom. An amateur botanist, she is also conducting a longitudinal study on the gastrointestinal effects of consuming *Acalypha hispida* houseplants. Results have been discouragingly excretory so far, but they’re also called cat tails so you can’t blame her for repeated attempts.

In her spare time, she shows the cold shoulder to new department members, perfects the art of litter displacement, and demands brushing with more urgency than university administration ever demanded proper funding from the state.



Marques

My name is Marques Tuiasosopo, and I am an Alaskan Malamute. Mostly, people call me Tui, but when I’m in trouble, they call me Marques. I joined Justin and Liina-Ly last August and have since then graduated from several levels of dog education, including doggy high school. My primary interests are treats, specifically boiled chicken and peanut butter. I also enjoy walking, but I’d like to go faster than the humans, so I often end up pulling them. I would love to get an advanced degree in any activities related to snow. I LOVE SNOW!



Caileagh

Caileagh is an American Staffordship + Husky rescue dog from Alabama who joined Tom’s family in the spring of 2017. She is active, affable, and very affectionate. She has a bark that would scare an ogre but she’s actually quite friendly. She’s mortally afraid of thunder and lightning and apprehensive about insects in the lawn. In the accompanying picture from 2022, you can see her on some very strange-looking ice on Lake Wingra. No such ice this winter, sad to say!



Ingrid

Meet Ingrid, Svea’s officemate!

Ingrid’s previous research has been focused on the materiality of tennis balls, drawing parallels between the yellow spheres of joy and Swedish folk-dance forms. More recently, this has turned towards a study of the intricacies of fetch rituals between human and dog. Svea and Ingrid have been collaborating on fieldwork activities in the neighborhood where Ingrid investigates daily changes in olfactory landscape, which, coupled with her detailed surveying from the window, promises to be an exciting contribution to the field. They have also been discussing a possibility of a collaborative fiber arts project to make use of the copious amounts of Ingrid’s hair that has been produced in recent weeks.

During the winter months, Ingrid’s scholarly pursuits turn towards the domestic as she investigates the socio-cultural implications of spot-stealing on the bed and couch. This practice-based research informs her understanding of Scandinavian territorial disputes. She is also the chair of several department committees and takes her responsibilities seriously; she particularly enjoys her role as protector from perceived threats by package bearers and acting chair of the dishwasher prewash committee.

Max

Paws what you’re doing to meet Max, champion of schnuggles and hero of car adventures. Max is a seven-year-old miniature schnauzer who was adopted by Dean and Nick in February 2022. He loves to schneak onto Zoom calls to show that he is the true dogboss of Dean’s home office, where he has also been working on his PhD in schnauzology with a dogtoral minor in peanut butter studies. His research has the pawtential to rollover the retrieved wisdom and change the scent of knowledge in the field fur-ever. On Instagram, Max (@maxkrszcz) enjoys a rabid fanbase of friends, family, and other schnauzers, who all admire his schnazzy modelling skills and his unapologetic schnauzitude. Max’s favorite words are “cuddle,” “food,” and “adventure,” and his favorite toys are Dino, Sloth, and Giraffe. In the department, Max has been founder and chair of the Committee to Ban Breaking Treats in Half and Calling it Two Treats.



Wally

Wally is Joanna’s officemate and winner of Employee of the Month 13 years in a row. When Wally is not sleeping upside down or fighting greebles, he is offering emotional support through lap occupation, enforcing mandatory breaks by screaming for attention, or reporting on the activities of the squirrels and birds in the backyard.

Wally’s academic pursuits include the emerging field of Feline-Specific Laws of Physics, Psychopharmacology (catnip subspeciality) and Being the Most Handsome Kitty In the World, Yes Sir.





Cindy Brady

This is Cindy Brady, who is not particularly interested in Kirsten’s research. What she really likes is to sit on Kirsten’s lap during Zoom meetings and listen. Over the years, she participated in many meetings, but she is very good about keeping things confidential. Cindy comes from a cat shelter in Fargo, North Dakota. She was one of a litter named the Brady brood. Kirsten’s friend, who volunteers at the shelter, brought her to Madison. Cindy Brady considers it her duty to keep Kirsten calm and to ensure that she gets enough sleep. At around 11 pm, she signals to Kirsten that it is time to go to bed. Then she joins her and purrs until Kirsten is fast asleep.



Sigurd

This is Sigurd, Kirsten’s research collaborator. Some people call him Tilty, because when he was adopted from the Humane Society in Madison, he had a tilty head, probably due to ear mites. Sigurd’s contribution to her articles and books consists primarily of sitting on the open pages of the books she wants to read. If it were not for the fact that Sigurd probably has only one brain cell, he would have soaked up a lot of Old Norse. To distract Kirsten from her computer, Sigurd likes to destroy things around the house. His two most recent accomplishments were to knock over and ruin two glass table lamps.



Kingston

Hi! I’m Kingston and my meal tickets are Scott Mellor and Susan Brantly. My favorite activities are playing Minecraft (seen here), eating treats, chasing a cat dancer, eating treats, and using Scott as a heat source. I have a smoldering and unrequited passion for the other cool cat in the house, Shuri, and I can only demonstrate my devotion by meekly giving up every comfortable place she pushes me out of. She gets to go outside on her own, but I only get to watch the squirrels in the backyard from inside this stupid pet baby buggy. Just because I snuck out of the house one night and ended up in Shorewood! What’s the big deal? I had a great time.



Shuri

I am Shuri and I hate it when my people think they can leave the house without my permission! Here I am trying to sabotage them...if they cannot pack, they cannot go! Everyone understands that I am the queen of the household, and they must obey my commands. If they rebel, then I retaliate by withholding cuddles and ignoring the foul fiends. Generally, my people are well trained, so feed me and let me outside whenever I ask. But then, they vanish for weeks on end! Horror! Leaving me to deal with that dunce, Kingston. Well, I have to have someone to vent my wrath upon...



Hild

Hild is particularly interested in the study of foodways. Her great ambition is to be afforded the opportunity to study fried chicken, but unfortunately due to the difficulties of access by a cultural outsider, much of her work thus far has centred on chicken-flavoured cat food. Hild and Ailie have recently been exploring a project on chicken-flavoured medication together, but Hild is still not sure it fits in with her research interests. Although Hild is an active fieldwork participant, and is particularly enthusiastic about participant-observation in the kitchen, she is also a dedicated archival researcher, and spends many hours on Ailie’s laptop.

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