

Ida Moen Johnson

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CURRENT POSITION

January 2025-Present: Teaching Assistant Professor in the Department of German, Slavic, Nordic
+ at the University of Wisconsin—Madison.

Affiliate: Integrated Liberal Studies (November 2025).

EDUCATION

- May 2020 PhD in Scandinavian, University of California, Berkeley
Dissertation: “The *Barn* and the Beast: The Queerness of Child-Animal
Figurations in Scandinavian Literature and Culture”
- May 2015 MA in Scandinavian, University of California, Berkeley
- May 2005 BA in Comparative Literature, Brown University

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed publications

- 2023 “Queer Species in Moominvalley: A Posthumanist Reading of Tove Jansson’s
MoominBooks.” *International Research in Children’s Literature*, vol. 16,
no. 2.
- 2021 “*Bjørn* and *Børn*: Queer Interspecies Kinship in Norway’s First Text for Children.”
Scandinavian Studies, vol. 93, no. 2
- 2019 “Jörgen Lindström and the Troubled Status of the Sexualized Child on Screen.” *Journal of
Scandinavian Cinema*, vol. 9, no. 2

2018 “‘Absent Illustrations’ in *The Listener*: Visual Narration Across Tove Jansson’s Authorship.” *Barnboken*, vol. 41

Book Reviews

Forthcoming 2026 Review of Henning Howlid Wærp’s *Dyr og mennesker i norsk litteratur*. Stamsund: Orkana Akademisk, 2025. *Scandinavian Studies* 98.2 (2026).

Other publications

Aug 2021 “*Hobbyhorse Revolution* and the Finnish Hobbyhorse Girls on Parade.” Post for the Children’s Literature Association (ChLA) International Committee blog

<https://childlitassn.wixsite.com/intlcommittee/single-post/hobbyhorse-revolution-and-the-finnish-hobbyhorse-girls-on-parade>

Apr 2020 Entry on Knut Hamsun’s *Sult* (*Hunger*) for *The Languages of Berkeley: An Online Exhibition*

<https://berkeley.pressbooks.pub/languagesofberkeley/chapter/norwegian/>

Nov 2018 Review of *Our Children and Other Animals* (Stewart and Cole 2014) and *Childhood and Pethood* (eds. Feuerstein and Nolte-Odhiambo 2017) for the *Nature in Children’s Literature and Culture* blog

<https://blogg.hvl.no/nachilit/2018/11/16/our-children-and-other-animals-childhood-and-pethood/>

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2019-2020 UC Berkeley Dissertation Completion Fellowship

2018-2019 Birgit Baldwin Fellowship for dissertation research in Scandinavia from the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS)

Fall 2019 Award for weeklong research visit at Svenska barnboksinstitutet (The Swedish

Institute for Children's Books)

May 2017 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor award, UC Berkeley Department of Scandinavian

PRIOR WORK

Aug 2021- **Lecturer in Norwegian, University of Wisconsin–Madison**
Aug 2024 I teach courses in beginning, intermediate, and advanced Norwegian language, plus courses on Nordic literature and culture. I supervise the Norwegian TA.

Aug 2020- **Visiting Assistant Professor of Norwegian, St. Olaf College**
July 2021 Taught beginning Norwegian courses (semesters 1-2), "The Nordic Child," and a first-year writing course called "Humans and Other Animals"

Fall 2017- **Graduate Student Instructor–Discipline Leader, UC Berkeley**
Spr 2018 Led training for first-time Graduate Student Instructors of foreign language and Reading and Composition courses

Aug 2015- **Graduate Student Instructor, UC Berkeley**
May 2018 Taught beginning and intermediate Norwegian (semesters 1-4) as well as Reading and Composition courses, including "The Nordic Child," "Scandinavian Design," and "Girls, Boys, and Beasts"

Aug 2012- **English Teaching Assistant, Fulbright–Norway**
May 2013 Taught English courses at the University of Bergen and Bergen Katedralskole

July 2008- **Program Director, Teach For America**
June 2011 Coached first- and second-year teachers in grades pre-K through 8 in Phoenix, AZ and the San Francisco Bay Area. Helped design and facilitate training for 300+ corps members.

Aug 2005- **Teacher, Country Place Elementary School, Cashion, AZ**
May 2008 Fifth grade teacher and fifth grade team lead

COURSES TAUGHT

Norwegian language

I regularly teach beginning and intermediate Norwegian (semesters 1-4)

“Readings in Norwegian Literature”

This course is an overview of Norwegian texts from 1850-present taught in Norwegian. Students are at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Taught Fall 2021.

“Contemporary Scandinavian Languages”

This course introduces intermediate and advanced students of Scandinavian languages to key linguistic, literary, and cultural themes in Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish. I teach the Norwegian portion of this course with two colleagues. Taught multiple times.

“The Nordic Child”

This course examines the figure of the child in Nordic literature, film, and societies. Taught multiple times.

“Humans and Other Animals in Nordic Literature and Film”

This course introduces students to key questions in animal studies and posthumanism through Nordic film, texts, and cultures. Taught multiple times.

“Scandinavian Design”

This course uses the popular concept of “Scandinavian Design” to frame questions about Nordic texts and society. Taught multiple times.

PUBLISHED CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT _____

June 2020 Created modules for the *Godt i gang* website (intermediate Norwegian curriculum for university students) addressing race and diversity in Norway

CONFERENCE TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS _____

Conference talks

June 2025 “Teaching Brynjulf Jung Tjønn’s *Kvit, norsk mann* in 4th semester Norwegian.”
Roundtable: Norwegian Migration, Past and Present, in Post-Secondary Course

Design (Crossings and Connections conference at St. Olaf College)

- May 2025 "Naked Bodies, Climate Crisis: Dis-ease in Two NRK Shows for Kids" (Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study conference)
- May 2024 "How to Read and Write Like an Animal: Methods in the Nordic Studies Classroom" (Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study conference)
- May 2022 "Tongue Cutters and Forest Kindergarteners: (Un)Natural Children in Two Norwegian Documentaries" (Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study conference)
- June 2021 "*Hobbyhorse Revolution* and the Finnish Hobbyhorse Girl as Queer Posthumanist Subject" (Children's Literature Association conference)
- May 2018 "Tingles for Profit: ASMR Advertising and the 'Oddly IKEA' Video" (Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study conference)
- July 2017 "Responding to *The Brothers Lionheart*: Children Make Sense of Death and Reading in Letters to Astrid Lindgren" (International Research Society for Children's Literature conference)
- May 2017 "Jörgen Lindström and the Troubled Status of the Sexualized Child on Screen" (Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study conference)
- Aug 2016 "Seeing Illustrations Across the Jansson Œuvre" (Nordic Children's Literature conference)
- May 2016 "*Flere Tanter*: The Power of the Aunt in the 19th Century Norwegian Novel" (Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study conference)
- May 2015 "Ironical Illustrations in Tove Jansson's *Sent i november*" (Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study conference)

Invited talks

- Oct 2018 "*Bjørn* and *Børn*: Queer Kinship in Norway's First Story for Children," invited talk

for the Nature in Children's Literature and Culture working group (NaChiLitCul) at Høgskulen på Vestlandet in Bergen, Norway

Feb 2019 "Girls and Bears and Boys on Gooseback: Child-Animal Figurations in Scandinavian Nation Building," invited talk at Stockholms Universitet

Jan 2019 "The Queerness of Child-Animal Figurations in Scandinavian Literature and Culture," invited talk at the Norsk Barnebokinstitut in Oslo, Norway (talk given in Norwegian)

Workshops

June 2022 ENSCAN's 5th Workshop on Teaching Ecocriticism. With two colleagues, I presented on "productive pairs"—one primary text and one scholarly text—that we have used effectively in the environmental humanities classroom. (ENSCAN is the Ecocritical Network for Scandinavian Studies)

Jan 2019 Two-day workshop on ecocritical approaches to Nordic children's literature scholarship (the first of its kind) at Høgskulen på Vestlandet in Bergen, Norway. Sponsored by the Nature in Children's Literature and Culture working group (NaChiLitCul) and the Ecocritical Network for Scandinavian Studies (ENSCAN)

July 2016 Lærerseminaret (Seminar for International Teachers of Norwegian). Weeklong seminar for university instructors of Norwegian hosted at the University of Oslo.

Ongoing Norgesseminar. I regularly attend the annual seminar of the Norwegian Teachers Association of North America (NORTANA), which hosts prominent authors, public figures, and scholars from Norway and focuses on university language pedagogy.

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT AND FIELD

May 2023- Board member of the Norwegian Researchers and Teachers Association of North America. Elected for a three-year term.

Jan 2023- Editor of the Nordic Unit Newsletter (published each semester)

July 2021 Reviewer for University of Wisconsin Press manuscript on Scandinavian children's

literature

- 2020-2021 Coordinated efforts to revise the “History and Heritage” website at St. Olaf College to reflect a more accurate and honest account of the college’s Norwegian identity and role in settler colonialism
- 2017-2018 Organizing committee member for “Borders and Bridges: Nordic Nationalisms and Transnationalisms,” a graduate student conference hosted by the Department of Scandinavian at UC Berkeley, March 2018
- 2014-2018 Graduate student representative to the Ibsen Society of America
- 2013-2014 Source checker for *Nordic Literature: A Comparative History* (John Benjamins)
- Fall 2013 Researched and created a database of films based on Ibsen’s works for the Ibsen Society of America website

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS)

Norwegian Researchers and Teachers Association of North America (NORTANA)

Ecocritical Network for Scandinavian Studies (ENSCAN)

LANGUAGES

Spoken: Norwegian (near-native fluency), Spanish (near-native fluency), French (proficient)

Reading: Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Spanish, French, German