

# NORTANA NEWS

Summer and Fall 2017

Newsletter for the Norwegian Researchers & Teachers Association of North America

## Fra redaktøren

While this space is traditionally reserved for a report from the president, I thought I would give Kyle a break this time and use it for my own first report as editor of the newsletter. Kyle will be in Los Angeles for SASS in two months and can update everyone on the goings-on in NorTANA since our last meeting. I will not be at SASS, though, so I'm seizing this opportunity to let you know what my plans are for the newsletter.



First, anyone who's keeping score will have noticed that the various projected publication dates I've given, at Norgesseminaret and in my call for news, have quietly come and gone with no newsletter. Now that it's finally here, a quick perusal will reveal that, compared to the elegant and comprehensive work of my esteemed predecessor, Milda Halvorson, this one is, yes, a bit skimpy and gray and rough around the edges. Milda (and those before her) set the bar high, and it may take an issue or two for me to approach that high standard. Men jeg jobber med saken!

Nothing makes you fully appreciate the work of others quite like trying to do it in their absence. I've learned that lesson not only in taking over the newsletter, but in my position here at UND—another reason the newsletter has been back-burnered and postponed numerous times. For the last six months I've been sort-of holding down the fort in the Norwegian section of the Languages department while my possibly superhuman colleague Melissa Gjellstad has been on a well-earned sabbatical, which has meant teaching a double load plus covering as many administrative tasks as I can manage. A colleague recently said, "I don't know how you do it!" and my response was: make no mistake, I'm not "doing it." I'm doing *some* of it, missing plenty, and just hoping it's enough to keep things going until Melissa's back. There are dozens of things every week that Melissa deftly handles that I only ever become dimly aware of, and usually too late.

So I'm dedicating my first issue of the newsletter to two people whose work for NorTANA, and for Norwegian studies in general I've always appreciated, but never adequately, and never so much as now. Thanks to Milda and Melissa for your tireless and often unsung devotion to NorTana!

Oh, yes—my plans for the newsletter. I plan to put it out twice a year, as Milda did, with a report, however brief, from each of the NorTANA officers, plus an update on the coming Norgesseminar in every spring issue—all things included by previous editors. And more color and elegance than this issue has, once I figure out the software.

We've talked amongst the board and in NorTANA meetings of a regularly updated page on the website for highlighting members' ongoing research. That's a good idea that will have to wait until this semester is over. In the meantime, I welcome your ideas, suggestions, and constructive feedback.

## In this issue

Fra redaktøren (Steve Finney)	1
NorTANA Business	2
Meeting minutes	
Spring 2017 (Minneapolis)	2
Fall 2017 (Berkeley)	3
We Congratulate	4
Save the date!	4
SASS 2018	4
Norway Seminar 2018	4
Research and Study Opportunities	4
Position Announcements	
Stipends and Grant Opportunities	
Carla Summer Institutes for Language	
News, Reports & Resources	5
Call for papers	6
Reviews and Publications	
Reading Group Guides	
NorTANA Membership Information	
NorTANA Executive Committee 2017-2020	

# Nortana Meeting Minutes

*Sass — May 13, 2017*

*Minneapolis, MN.*

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 by NorTANA president Melissa Gjellstad. Secretary Peggy Hager was not present, so minutes were taken by outgoing vice-president/incoming president Kyle Korynta.

## ***Business:***

### **1. Welcome**

### **2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting.**

### **3. Announcement of and congratulations to incoming board:**

Kyle Korynta (President)  
Dean Krouk (Vice President)  
Gergana May (continuing as Treasurer)  
Maren Anderson Johnson (Secretary)  
Steven Finney (Webmaster and Newsletter Editor)

### **4. Officers' reports**

**Vice President** (Kyle Korynta): no report given.

**Treasurer** (Gergana May):

We currently have a total of \$11,334.43 in our checking account, of which \$9,200.54 came from membership dues and \$2,133.89 was left over from Norgesseminaret 2016.

**Secretary** (Peggy Hager): not present, no report given.

**Website** (Renessa Jessup): not present, no report given.

**Newsletter** (unfilled since Milda Halvorson's resignation): no report given.

**Bjørn Jensen apartment** (Margaret Hayfor O'Leary):

The Bjørn Jensen apartment is going away in June. There were unsuccessful attempts to find a replacement. Some furnishings remain, which ISS is storing for the time being. Some may be lent out to HECUA students and/or eventually sold. Currently, 22,000 NOK remains in The Bjørn Jensen account. These funds could be transferred to Bostøtte or added to our NorTANA account here. It will be up to the new board to decide.

**President** (Melissa Gjellstad):

This is a transition time for NorTANA, with changes in

the way Norgesseminaret is funded and new challenges for NorTANA to demonstrate its relevance to the Norwegian Embassy and to identify and fulfill its role in maintaining the health of Norwegian language, literature and area studies. In response to this challenge, NorTANA has instituted the Assignment Charrette as an ongoing feature of Norgesseminaret, one that demonstrates membership participation and encourages sharing and innovation in teaching and pedagogy.

Regarding Norgesseminar funding, while we came in under budget for the 2016 Knoxville seminar, a conference registration fee will be instituted for the 2017

Norgesseminar to protect against a shortfall, and will probably be the norm going forward. A lodging subsidy is expected to continue for those willing to share a room, but retirees will now be required to pay for their own housing due to a stipulation in the grant.

**Treasurer Gergana May** added that the process for obtaining funding for Norgesseminaret now involves writing a grant proposal. Additionally, there are stipulations in the grant that invitees must be active members currently working in the field, and official invitations must be sent out by the Embassy. Due to uncertainties related to this new funding process, the decision was made by the board to institute the conference registration fee for Norgesseminar participants.

Gergana then thanked outgoing president Melissa Gjellstad for guiding the organization through the difficult changes of the last two seminars, in Boseman and Knoxville, and all members stood and gave Melissa a loud round of applause.

Following officers' reports, upcoming Norgesseminar co-host Mark Sandberg from UC Berkeley reported that Norgesseminaret 2017 will be Berkeley's first time hosting Norgesseminaret. The topic will be Digital Cultures and will include aspects of Digital Humanities, Game Design in Norway and Scandinavia, Social media and its depiction in the TV show SKAM, and Digital privacy law and surveillance, including dark media.

Following Mark Sandberg's report, Melissa turned the meeting over to incoming president Kyle Korynta, who expressed his excitement for working with everyone, and adjourned the meeting.

# Nortana Meeting Minutes

## Norgesseminaret — Oct. 6 2017

### Berkeley, CA.

The meeting was called to order by NorTANA president Kyle Korynta at 3:45 p.m. Secretary Maren Anderson Johnson was not present, so minutes were taken by Steve Finney.

### **Business:**

#### **1. Welcome** (President Kyle Korynta)

#### **2. Approval of minutes (postponed)**

President Kyle Korynta announced that, while ordinarily approval of the minutes of the previous NorTANA meeting were the first order of business, the minutes from the May, 2017 meeting in Minneapolis had not yet been distributed, so approval of them would be postponed until they had been distributed via email to the membership shortly after the end of Norgesseminaret.

#### **3. Officers' reports**

**Vice president** (Dean Krouk): no report given

**Treasurer** (Gergana May):

NorTANA's finance are in good order, with a balance of \$9,266 in our bank account. We collected \$2,133 in seminar fees, and thanks to the Embassy it is possible we might avoid having to use those funds, as we ended up receiving more funding this year (One grant of \$1200 and another of \$4000.) than we did the last two years.

**Website & Newsletter** (Steve Finney):

There have been minor updates to information on the website, and Finney plans to put out a newsletter in January, so there will be a call later in the fall for updates regarding recent publications of articles, books, etc., along with new positions, awards and accomplishments. There is also a need for people willing to write reviews of relevant books for the newsletter.

**Bjørn Jensen Apartment:**

President Kyle Korynta related that the board is considering using the funds remaining from the elimination of the Bjørn Jensen apartment towards housing support for members doing research in Norway, for as long as there were funds remaining, but would welcome other suggestions from the membership. The amount of the funds stand at approximately 27,000 nkr.

**President** (Kyle Korynta):

- The assignment charette has again been a successful and popular component of Norgesseminaret, and members are reminded to revise their submissions and resubmit them for inclusion in NorTANA's growing assignment library.

- Is there interest in either or both of the following possibilities?
  1. A "keynote" assignment leader from the membership who could present an assignment at the next Norgesseminaret that was especially fitting for the theme.
  2. A «drink and think» social/brainstorming session at SASS 2018?

(There appeared to be positive interest in the «keynote assignment leader» suggestion. Responses to the «think and drink» idea included possible difficulty fitting it into an already packed schedule, and some scepticism over whether it was actually possible to engage in both activities simultaneously.)

- Member are encouraged to envision NorTANA as a resource for pedagogy, the humanities and research, and to continue to contribute in areas of ACTFL OPI/WRI evaluation, reading guides on the NorTANA website, and to share their research by submitting updates to be posted on the NorTANA website.
- A survey will be sent out shortly after the end of Norgesseminaret for members to evaluate this year's seminar.
- Where will next year's seminar be held?  
(Member Nate Kramer from BYU announced that he had already begun planning to host Norgesseminaret 2018.)
- The deadline for travel stipends for next year's seminar will be June 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **4. Announcements**

Torild Homstad announced that:

- Margaret Hayford O'Leary has been declared an "Officer of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit.
- Longtime Director of the International Summer School at the University of Oslo Einar Vannebo has left his position with the University to become a pastor. The new director is Nia Kapur, who comes from the Norwegian Peace Corps, and Inger Egebakken has assumed responsibility for all Norwegian instruction at UiO.
- Inger Egebakken announced that in the spring of 2018 there would be 17 classes with Norwegian language instruction, and that there was now-year round Norwegian language instruction at UiO.
- Margaret Hayford O'Leary announced that applications were being accepted for an open position in Norwegian Language and Literature at St. Olaf, and that consideration of applications would begin in January, 2018.

**The meeting was adjourned by Kyle Korynta at 4:20 p.m.**

---

## Congratulations!

---

*We congratulate:*

**Jenna Coughlin**, who has been named contributing editor to *The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies* (Brill), Norwegian Literature section. She is currently gathering materials for the entry on Norwegian literary scholarship published in 2017. If you have published books or articles in 2017 in the field of modern Norwegian literature, broadly defined, and would like to have them considered for the article, please contact her at [jcoughlin@berkeley.edu](mailto:jcoughlin@berkeley.edu)

**Mark DeGarmeaux**, editor and main translator of the four-volume translation of *U.V. Koren's Works*, published by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Historical Society (See Reviews and Publications for more information.)

**Dean Krouk**, whose book *Fascism and Modernist Literature in Norway* was published last fall (2017) by University of Washington Press. (See Reviews and Publications for more information.)

**Terje Leiren**, who after forty years (1977-2017) as a member of the faculty of the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington, retired on August 1, 2017. He will continue his research and writing and looks forward to maintaining a scholarly profile, and intends to maintain a presence in NorTANA and SASS.

**Odd S. Lovoll**, whose *Two Homelands: A Historian Considers His Life and Work*, will be co-published by The Minnesota Historical Society Press and The Norwegian-American Historical Association on September 1, 2018.

**Mark Sandberg**, co-general editor of *Nordic Literature: A comparative history*, the first volume of which, *Spatial Nodes*, was published in December, 2017. (See Reviews and Publications for more information.)

**Marv Slind**, Professor Emeritus of History at Luther College, who published a novel in 2017. *Ivy* is an academic satire set at a fictional college in north-central Minnesota (like *Moo* at a liberal arts college). It is available in print and Kindle formats from amazon.com.

**Kåre Strøm**, whose book *Norsk politikk* (co-authored with Jan Erik Grindheim and Knut Heidar) was published in 2017. (See Reviews and Publications for more information.)

---

## Save the Date!

---

**SASS Conference:** May 3-5, 2018, Los Angeles, CA

**Norway Seminar** "Contemporary Media Landscapes"  
October 18-20 2018 (tentative), Provo, UT

---

## Research and Study Opportunities

---

### NorTANA Stipend for Graduate Student Attendance at Norgesseminaret 2018

The NorTANA Board invites graduate student applications for a grant of up to \$250 for attendance at Norgesseminaret 2018. Seminar participants are active NorTANA members who serve as faculty, instructors, freelance researchers and recommended graduate students at institutions across North America. All invitations, including those to graduate students, are issued from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D.C. for the seminar. This NorTANA Graduate Student Travel Stipend will help supplement the student's own expenses for the seminar (primarily transportation to/from the seminar site and some meals) and will be awarded upon submission of receipts.

Please review the information below for application eligibility and submission of materials:

#### Eligibility Guidelines:

- The student is currently a Ph.D. student in good standing at a university in the U.S. or Canada;
- The student is a NorTANA member in good standing;
- Those students whose research interests are most relevant to the year's seminar topic and/or the speakers' areas of focus will be given priority;
- The student need not have passed pre-dissertation qualifying exams.

#### Application Materials:

- 1) A cover letter written by the student, detailing why this Norway Seminar aligns with his/her research.
- 2) A letter of recommendation by one (or several) faculty members of the student's department or graduate program. The letter should include pertinent information on the student's graduate work and research to date.
- 3) An unofficial transcript.

#### Submission of Application:

Graduate students are requested to submit their materials as email attachments to: [president@nortana.org](mailto:president@nortana.org)  
Only complete applications will be considered.

The application deadline is **June 1, 2018**. Selection will be announced by July 1, 2018.

Selection Committee: The NorTANA board

Details on Norgesseminaret 2018:

Dates: (tentative) 18-20 October 2018

Place: Brigham Young University, Provo, UT (hosted by Dr. Nate Kramer)

Topic: *Contemporary Media Landscapes*

## SIU: Mobility Grant for Norwegian Language and Literature 2018-2019

The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU) calls for applications for the Mobility Grant for Norwegian Language and Literature for the academic year 2017-2018.

The mobility grant is awarded master and Ph.D. students in countries outside Norway and at institutions with a department for Nordic/Scandinavian studies, whom have chosen Norwegian language or Norwegian literature as topic for their dissertation. The grant must be used for fieldwork in Norway in connection with the dissertation.

### SIU asks the institutions to inform their students about the opportunity.

The mobility grant is awarded for a minimum of one and a maximum of three months. The fieldwork must be conducted at a Norwegian higher educational/research institution, and the applicant must provide details of a tutor at this institution who has agreed to tutor the student during his/her stay in Norway.

The grant shall cover additional expenses in connection with the research stay in Norway at fixed rates, NOK 10 634 per month. Fieldwork in one of the three northernmost counties in Norway will in addition imply an extra travel grant of NOK 1,000. Grants for travel to and from Norway are not awarded.

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINES

The applicant must prepare a project description and make contact with a tutor and an institution of higher learning in Norway.

Online application form is available in [Espresso](#).

Obligatory attachments to the application:

- A recommendation letter from the home institution tutor
- A personal invitation letter from the Norwegian institution

**Application deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.**

The applications will be assessed by the Programme Committee for Norwegian Studies Abroad.

The applicants will be informed about the outcome of their application accordingly.

Guidelines and link to application form:

[www.studyinnorway.no/mobility-grants](http://www.studyinnorway.no/mobility-grants)

Contact information: [norgeskunnskap@siu.no](mailto:norgeskunnskap@siu.no)

## CARLA

(Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition)

### Summer Institutes for Language Teachers

CARLA offers a range of institutes targeted at foreign language and ESL teachers from a variety of teaching levels and contexts:

Registration is now open for the CARLA summer institute program. This internationally known program reflects CARLA's commitment to link research and theory with practical applications for the classroom. Each institute is highly interactive and includes discussion, theory-building, hands-on activities, and plenty of networking opportunities.

Join the more than 5,700 foreign language, ESL, and immersion teachers, administrators, curriculum specialists, and language teacher educators who have participated in these institutes.

Find detailed information about each summer institute on the

CARLA website at: [carla.umn.edu/institutes/](http://carla.umn.edu/institutes/)

Register now at : [carla.umn.edu/institutes/registration.html](http://carla.umn.edu/institutes/registration.html)

---

## News, reports and resources

---

### Traveling Exhibition: Norway and U.S., Partners in the Polar Regions January 19 - March 25 | [Norway House](#)

This exhibition from The Fram Museum in Oslo highlights the Norwegian-American collaboration in the Polar regions. It tells the stories of how Americans and Norwegians have worked together through hardship and frost to discover new land and lay the foundation for polar science. The exhibition is made possible by The Fram Museum in cooperation with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of the United States in Oslo.

### Prince from Minneapolis Now through June 17, 2018 | [Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis](#) | Free

[Prince from Minneapolis](#) is an exhibit that features work by four photographers, one of whom is [Nancy Bundt](#). Bundt is from Minneapolis but has lived in Norway for the last 25 years. Like the other photographers in this exhibit (Allen Beaulieu, Terry Gydesen, and Robert Whitman), she photographed Prince in his early years, helping to craft and disseminate his now iconic image and identity.

## Intensive On-line Summer Norwegian 2018

*University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Learn Norwegian on-line this summer! The University of Wisconsin-Madison is pleased to announce that intensive on-line Norwegian will be offered this summer. Perhaps you want to develop a foundation in the language before studying or living in Norway, or you want to explore your Norwegian heritage, be able to communicate with a friend, read a favorite book in Norwegian, admire the Norwegian government or study a language that will make your resume stand out.

The course is open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

The University of Wisconsin's summer online course is an intensive, eight-week version of a regular academic year beginning Norwegian level course. Students may take only the first four weeks, or continue on for the full eight weeks. There are no prerequisites for 101. Completion of the full eight-week session will allow students to continue on into third semester Norwegian.

Graduate students who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an advanced degree program at many American universities and who want to combine learning Norwegian with international or area studies may apply for Summer FLAS support and enroll in the course.

First semester will be offered: June 18-July 13 (4 credits)

Second semester will be offered: July 16-August 10 (4 credits)

The course features a unique series of grammar and content tutorials that supplement the textbook language materials and on-line activities. An on-line course does offer students some flexibility. However, because this is an intensive course, enrolled students must plan on spending 6-8 hours a day to complete assignments. A key component of the course is required daily video chat sessions with the instructor and students must be available for at least one video chat session per day.

Summer on-line Norwegian is sponsored by the Center for European Studies (CES) and the Department of German, Nordic and Slavic at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Questions may be addressed to the instructor of the course Peggy Hager [pehager@wisc.edu](mailto:pehager@wisc.edu)

Call for proposals:

**SPECIAL ISSUE OF SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES**

**Theme: Knausgård Beyond Autofiction**

Ever since the 2009 publication of the first volume of his six-volume autobiographical novel *Min kamp* (My Struggle), Karl Ove Knausgård has intrigued readers and scholars alike. In Knausgård's native Scandinavia, the initial focus was on the autobiographical aspect of the novel, which led to the perception of *My Struggle* as part of a literary trend of autofiction - a term originally coined by the French author Serge Doubrovsky in 1977. The critical and scholarly focus on questions of genre, autobiography, and autofiction might be explained by the geographical and temporal proximity of the Scandinavian scholars to Knausgård, as well as the fact that *Min kamp* appeared at a time when these issues were already being widely discussed. Since *My Struggle* has now been published throughout most of the world, and almost a decade has passed since the initial moment of reception in Scandinavia, we would like to encourage an expansion of the boundaries of Knausgård research beyond the generic focus of the early academic reception. Therefore, we invite abstracts for a special issue of *Scandinavian Studies* with the theme of "Knausgård Beyond Autofiction."

We are looking for articles on Knausgård's writings before, after, and including *My Struggle*, by scholars in any area of literary studies or the humanities, that address a range of social, historical, and aesthetic issues including gender and masculinity, affect, childhood, collective/historical memory, views of art and realism, contemporary Nordic politics, Hitler and Nazism, as well as Knausgård's engagement with theory, philosophy, and literary predecessors.

Deadline for a 300-word abstract is May 1st 2018, and deadline for submission of chosen articles is October 1st Please send abstracts to the editors of the special volume.

Claus Elholm Andersen, University of Wisconsin-Madison:  
[ceandersen2@wisc.edu](mailto:ceandersen2@wisc.edu)

Dean Krouk, University of Wisconsin-Madison:  
[krouk@wisc.edu](mailto:krouk@wisc.edu)



# Norges skolen

En morsom og lærerik sommerskole

For barn 9-18 år  
Telemark, Norge  
14. - 31. juli 2018

Norges skolen gir elever fra hele verden en mulighet til å lære norsk og bli bedre kjent med norsk kultur og samfunn.

Norges skolen tilbyr et spennende program med daglig norsk- og kulturundervisning, utflukter, sports- og friluftaktiviteter. Skolen gjennomføres for 16. år på rad av Norwegians Worldwide.

**Gi ditt barn en norsk sommer og minner for livet!**

Mer informasjon: [www.nww.no/skolen@nww.no](http://www.nww.no/skolen@nww.no)



## Treasurer's Report

As of February 12, 2018, NorTANA has exactly \$13,190.36 in our bank account right now. \$8,868.15 is regular income from membership dues, and \$4,322.21 was raised by the Norway Seminar participants, to be applied to next year's seminar budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Gergana May

NorTANA Treasurer

---

## Reviews and Publications

---

**Dean Krouk's** book : *Fascism and Modernist Literature in Norway* was published last fall (2017) by University of Washington Press.

From the University of Washington press catalog:

*Fascism and Modernist Literature in Norway* illuminates the connections between literature and politics in interwar Europe. Focusing on the works of Nobel Prize-winning novelist Knut Hamsun and modernist poets Asmund Sveen and Rolf Jacobsen, all of whom collaborated with the Nazi regime during the occupation of Norway in World War II, and those of the anti-fascist novelist and critic Sigurd Hoel, Dean Krouk reveals key aspects of the modernist literary imagination in Norway.

In their writings, Hamsun, Sveen, and Jacobsen expressed their discontent with twentieth-century European modernity, which they perceived as overly rationalized or nihilistic. Krouk explains how fascism offered these writers a seductive utopian vision that intersected with the countercultural and avant-garde aspects of their literary works, while Hoel's critical analysis of Nazism extended to a questioning of all patriarchal forms of authority. Krouk's readings of their works serve as a timely reminder to us all of the dangers of fascism.

~

Dean also published two articles about contemporary Norwegian literature in 2017:

1. "Falling Silent: Holocaust Trauma and the Breakdown of Postmemory in Merethe Lindström's *Dager i stillhetens historie*." *Edda: Nordisk Tidsskrift for Litteraturvitenskap*. 4, 2017.
2. "Gress, istykkerskrevet: Knausgård som leser av Paul Celan i *Min kamp*." "*Så tat på livet som muligt. Tolkninger af Karl Ove Knausgårds Min kamp*." Ed. Claus Elholm Andersen. Copenhagen, Spring forlag, 2017.

**Odd S. Lovoll's** *Two Homelands: A Historian Considers His Life and Work*, will be co-published by The Minnesota Historical Society Press and The Norwegian-American Historical Association on September 1, 2018.

Publisher's synopsis:

Odd S. Lovoll has spent his career chronicling the stories of Norwegian immigrants to the United States and Canada. He, too, was an immigrant at a young age, and like many international migrants returned to his homeland for a period during his young adult life before settling permanently in the United States. This personal connection has long informed his work, and now he turns his academic's eye to his own story. In *Two Homelands*, Lovoll narrates the full arc of his life, beginning with memories of hardship during World War II, while his father was separated from the family, followed later by the devastating loss of his older brother in a sailing accident. He considers language and cultural barriers faced as an immigrant to the United States and then as an outsider when he returned to Norway. He traces his early years as a teacher in Norway, his marriage and family life, and on through his scholarly work and extensive career as a researcher, writer, and professor in the United States. Through autobiographical tales interwoven with details of his research, this book links Lovoll's experience with that of other immigrants and points to intriguing intersections in his professional and personal lives.

~ ~ ~

**Mark Sandberg**, co-general editor of *Nordic Literature: A comparative history*, announces the publication of Volume I of the series, *Spatial Nodes*

Publisher's synopsis:

*Nordic Literature: A comparative history* is a multi-volume comparative analysis of the literature of the Nordic region. Bringing together the literature of Finland, continental Scandinavia (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Sápmi), and the insular region (Iceland, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands), each volume of this three-volume project adopts a new frame through which one can recognize and analyze significant clusters of literary practice. This first volume, *Spatial Nodes*, devotes its attention to the changing literary figurations of space by Nordic writers from medieval to contemporary times. Organized around the depiction of various "scapes" and spatial practices at home and abroad, this approach to Nordic literature stretches existing notions of temporally linear, nationally centered literary history and allows questions of internal regional similarities and differences to emerge more strongly. The productive historical contingency of the "North" as a literary space becomes clear in this close analysis of its literary texts and practices.

(Reviews and Publications continued on next page...)

**Kåre Strøm**, along with co-authors Jan Erik Grindheim and Knut Heidar, announce the publication of *Norsk politikk* by Universitetsforlaget in Oslo.

From the publisher's website:

NORSK POLITIKK tilbyr en grunnleggende innsikt i hvordan det norske politiske systemet er bygget opp og hvordan det fungerer. Boken setter dagens system inn i et historisk perspektiv samtidig som den sammenlikner det norske demokratiet med hvordan demokratier organiseres i andre land. Den retter seg spesielt mot studenter i statsvitenskap og andre samfunnsfag, men er en ressurs for alle som ønsker å forstå norsk politikk.

TEMATISK er boken tredelt. Del I omhandler den historiske utviklingen av det norske demokratiet. Del II tar for seg de politiske og rettsstatlige institusjonene og den parlamentariske styringskjeden. Del III er konsentrert om politiske aktører og prosesser, med spesiell vekt på stridsspørsmål i norsk politikk, de politiske partiene og valg og velgere.

FORFATTERNE SPØR: Hvordan bringes folkemeningen inn i politikken og de politiske beslutningsprosessene? Hvordan balanseres politisk likhet med politisk kompetanse? I hvilken grad bidrar valgordningen til representative forsamlinger sosialt og politisk? Legger politiske institusjoner begrensinger på politikernes makt? Hvordan er forholdet mellom demokrati og rettsstat ivarettatt i det norske politiske systemet?

~ ~ ~

**Marv Slind**, Professor Emeritus of History at Luther College, published a novel in 2017. *Ivy* is an academic satire set at a fictional college in north-central Minnesota (like *Moo* at a liberal arts college). It is available in print and Kindle formats from amazon.com.

From amazon.com:

Henrik ("Just call me Hank") van Daam is president of Nieuw Nederland College, a small liberal arts college in north-central Minnesota. He has big plans—not just for the college, but for his own future. Nothing will come of them, though, if the faculty keep getting in the way. But Hank doesn't care what they think. That's one of the reasons so many of the faculty hate him. During the worst snow storm in years, Hank disappears mysteriously. When his body is found the next morning, the question is: did someone on campus hate him enough to kill him? In the months preceding Hank's disappearance and death, faculty struggle to deal with his "business oriented" approach to college administration. His misogynistic attitudes also pose a challenge for the woman he's recently hired as Dean, Sarah Christiansen. She and Hank's Administrative Assistant, Annika van Rijn, provide stability

and leadership in the midst of the chaos Hank has created. They discover how Hank's "macho" administrative style can easily be corrupted and lead to disaster. Together with other colleagues on campus, like History Department Chair Marty Dykstra, they work to maintain the ethical standards they believe their college was founded on—issues that go far beyond college life. Following the tradition of Kingsley Amis's *Lucky Jim*, Richard Russo's *Straight Man*, and Jane Smiley's *Moo, Ivy* is a light-hearted academic satire that looks at many of the serious problems in academic life—in this case, at a small liberal arts college.

~ ~ ~

**Mark DeGarmeaux**, editor and main translator of the four-volume translation of *U.V. Koren's Works*, published by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Historical Society announces the publication of the final volume of the four-volume collection of U.V. Koren's works in English.

From the publisher's website:

- Volume 1 includes sermons for the church year. Koren's sermons are a wonderful Sunday devotional with clear application Law and Gospel in a timeless way. This volume would make a wonderful study guide for pastors or even a devotional booklet for clergy and laity alike.
- Volume 2 includes Koren's addresses or speeches at Synod conventions, school dedications, and other events.
- Volume 3 includes articles about doctrinal topics and controversies.

Volume 4 has miscellaneous items, including memoirs of his first years in America, a speech about Abraham Lincoln, poems to his wife, etc. It also includes short biographies and tributes to Koren, written by others.

U. V. Koren (1826-1910) was a beloved pastor and church leader for the Norwegian Synod, the first Norwegian pastor to live west of the Mississippi. He guided the Synod through difficult controversies, and helped establish relationships with the Wisconsin Synod and Missouri Synod, as well as helping to found colleges and academies throughout the Midwest.

U.V. Koren is known as one of the fathers of the "Old" Norwegian Synod founded in 1853. He was a very influential leader, founding dozens of congregations, serving as a catalyst for the founding of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and holding the positions of president of the Iowa District and later President of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

After Koren's death in 1910, his son Paul compiled his works into a four volume set. Over the years, some of these works were translated for publication in a book of sermons, in the "Clergy Bulletin," and in the book *Truth Unchanged, Unchanging*.

~ ~ ~

---

# Reading Group Guides

---

*(No new reading group guides have been submitted since the last newsletter.)*

## Submit a Reading Group Guide!

The reading guides have always been the most frequently visited pages on our website. We now have eight reading guides available on <http://nortana.org/reading/> for the following books: *Farthest North*, *Antiphony*, *Out Stealing Horses*, *Alberta and Jacob*, *Maren Gripe*, *The Half Brother*, *According to Sofia*, and *My Struggle*.

With the proliferation of literary translations that are now available we have a prime opportunity to promote Norwegian literature to a wider audience.

NorTANA Reading Group Guides present works of Norwegian literature to an English-reading public. By presenting these introductory materials, questions for discussion, and other suggested readings we wish to enhance your reading experience as well as to share our enthusiasm for Norwegian literature and encourage you to explore further what Norwegian literature has to offer.

*Guide to Creating a Reading Group Guide:*

**PUBLICATION INFORMATION:** Title, Author, Publisher, ISBN, Price

**INTRODUCTION:** *A brief note to booksellers and/or book group leaders, stating why this book would be an excellent selection and what makes it particularly well-suited to use by a reading group.*

**ABOUT THIS BOOK:** **300-500 words briefly outlining the plot and major issues taken up in the book.** *Include any relevant material that sets the novel in some literary/historical context for non-Scandinavianists. As you create your reading group guide please keep the implied audience in mind. Our assumption is that reading group members are intelligent and serious lay-readers, but not academics (at least, not reading academically in this setting). It is not expected that they would have a detailed knowledge of Norwegian or Nordic literature or culture, (unless it happens to be a Nordic Book Club), but what the literary work reveals about differing cultural assumptions would be one relevant topic of discussion, along with themes, characterization, genre, style, and discussion of the translation.*

**FOR DISCUSSION:** *10 to 15 questions for discussion.*

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** *Short, general biographical information, primary genres, most important works, awards, etc. (ca. 150 words or less, depending on how significant the biographical information is to the reading context). Link to author's website, or author's page on publisher's website, if available.*

**ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR/TRANSLATION:**

**OTHER BOOKS AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY THIS AUTHOR:**

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING:** *"If you enjoyed this book, we suggest the following by this or other Nordic writers available in English..."*

**LINKS TO REVIEWS IN ENGLISH:**

NorTANA Reading Group Guides may be downloaded at no charge from the NorTANA website <http://nortana.org/> for use by reading groups or individual readers. Comments, questions, or suggestions may be posted to our Reading Group Guide Discussion (Bulletin Board) Page.

## NorTANA Membership Information

NorTANA (The Norwegian Researchers and Teachers Organization of North America) is a non-profit organization of researchers, teachers, and independent scholars involved in Norwegian language, literature, and area studies in North America.

NorTANA promotes the study of Norwegian and Norway at all levels, and works to facilitate cooperation among scholars engaged in these fields.

One of the privileges of NorTANA membership is the opportunity to become involved with a small, but dedicated, organization devoted to the professions of Norwegian Studies.

Membership is open to teachers, researchers, graduate students, and members of the community who are interested in the field.

If you are interested in reviewing books or instructional materials, or have teaching tips or information of interest to share with our colleagues, please contact the Newsletter editor at [editor@nortana.org](mailto:editor@nortana.org)

Membership in NorTANA costs \$15.00 per year or \$40.00 for three years. Graduate students and Community Education teachers may join at a special rate of \$12.00 per year or \$30.00 for three years. Membership is based on a calendar year. If you have let your membership lapse, now is the time to renew, as well as to encourage colleagues to join NorTANA.

To join or renew your membership, fill out the application online at <http://nortana.org/>. Payment must be sent by check to:

Gergana May, NorTANA Treasurer  
Department of Germanic Studies  
Ballantine Hall 644  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, IN 47405

---

## Executive Committee 2017-2020

---



**President**

Kyle Korynta  
St. Olaf College  
[president@nortana.org](mailto:president@nortana.org)



**Vice President**

Dean Krouk  
University of Wisconsin,  
Madison  
[vp@nortana.org](mailto:vp@nortana.org)



**Treasurer**

Gergana May  
Indiana University  
[treasurer@nortana.org](mailto:treasurer@nortana.org)



**Secretary**

Maren Anderson Johnson  
Luther College  
[secretary@nortana.org](mailto:secretary@nortana.org)



**Newsletter Editor / Webmaster**

Steven Finney  
University of North Dakota  
[webmaster@nortana.org](mailto:webmaster@nortana.org)