

SWESSE (THE SWEDISH SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ENGLISH) NEWSLETTER, November 2018

Dear SWESSE Members,

Welcome to your Autumn update on SWESSE-related activities and events and news of interest to our members.

1. REPORT FROM ESSE BOARD MEETING, BRNO, 2018

As representative for SWESSE, I attended my second ESSE Board meeting, which took place in Brno in the Czech Republic on 28–29 August. A summary of the key decisions made by the Board can be found here: <http://essenglish.org/decisions-by-the-board-2018/>.

The meeting was attended by the national representatives from 23 countries: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. Also present at the meeting were the executive, Liliane Louvel (President), Alberto Lázaro (Treasurer), Smiljana Komar (Secretary), and guests, Jacques Ramel (Webmaster) and Adrian Radu (Editor of *The ESSE Messenger*). Apologies were received from Ireland, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, and Slovakia. No apologies: Armenia, Cyprus, Latvia, Malta, and Russia.

The President of ESSE introduced the new Spanish representative, Montse Martínez Vázquez, and thanked the former member of the Spanish association on the ESSE Board, María Socorro Suárez Lafuente, for her dedicated work on behalf of ESSE. Thanks were also given to Jacques Ramel for his excellent work as Webmaster.

Professor **Andreas Jucker** (University of Zürich), the representative from the Swiss association, was elected as the **new ESSE President**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was presented at the Board meeting. ESSE finances continue to be quite strong. ESSE currently has a membership of 7,499 members from 33 countries, which represents an increase of 257 members in comparison with last year. The Swedish membership numbers remain fairly steady, with 208 members in 2016 and 205 in 2017, but with a decrease in 2018 to 193 members.

ESSE Messenger

The editor of the *Messenger*, Adrian Radu, was elected for a further 3-year term. The journal, published online, is open access. Two issues have been published in the last year: the Winter 2017 issue (with the theme 'Jane Austen Ours') and the Summer 2018 one (with the theme 'Multi/Inter-culturalism and identity negotiation'). The theme for the new *Messenger*, to be published in December 2018, is 'Language Contact Phenomena'.

For further info on the *ESSE Messenger*, see <http://www.essenglish.org/messenger.html>.

EJES (European Journal of English Studies)

Katerina Kitsi-Mitakou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), one of the general editors, reported that the peer-reviewed journal continues to perform well, with a 27% increase in full-text downloads in 2017 as compared to the previous year, and another special issue from 2017 scheduled to be republished in hardback form by Routledge. Further, the journal's impact factor was higher in 2017 than previously.

For further info on *EJES*, see <http://essenglish.org/ejes/>.

ESSE BOOK AWARDS

The winners of the ESSE book awards were announced at the Board meeting: see <http://essenglish.org/esse-book-awards-for-2018/>

ESSE BURSARIES AND BOOK GRANTS

ESSE offers both grants for the purchase of books (<http://essenglish.org/book-grants-2019/>) and bursaries (<http://essenglish.org/bursary-rules/>). Please see the respective links above for details.

DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM

This year's ESSE Doctoral Symposium was held on 28–29 August in Brno, with a total of 27 participants. **The next Doctoral Symposium will be held in Wrocław, Poland in 2019.** The deadline for application is 28 February 2019: see <http://essenglish.org/doctoral-symposium/>.

Please encourage your PhD students to apply to take part in future Doctoral Symposia. The purpose is to allow postgraduate students in English Studies from all over Europe to meet, discuss their work and compare notes. Whatever their cultural and academic differences, they can profit immensely from exchanging knowledge and experiences. As for the academic purpose of the Symposium, the aim is not so much to focus on the nitty-gritty details of research as on the general approach taken to the student's subject and the methodology applied.

NORWEGIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ENGLISH

I am pleased to report that the ESSE Board unanimously accepted the application of the recently-formed Norwegian Society for the Study of English (NORSES) to become a member of ESSE.

ESSE CONFERENCE

The 14th ESSE conference was hosted by Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic from 29 August to 2 September 2018. I was unfortunately unable to attend the conference, which began directly after the Board meeting, due to teaching commitments. The 15th ESSE conference will be held in Lyon from 31 August to 4 September 2020. The Board approved the bid by the University of Mainz, Germany to be the venue of the 16th ESSE conference in 2022.

HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENTAL DECISION TO BAN MA PROGRAMMES OF GENDER STUDIES

The Board was informed about the draft decree of the Hungarian government which proposes to ban MA programs in gender studies in Hungary. The Board agreed to send a letter signed by the ESSE President to the Hungarian State Secretary of Education, Dr József Bódis, urging him to reconsider and withdraw this misguided proposal.

2. ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN HUNGARY

The European University Association has published a statement regarding the ongoing attack on academic freedom in Hungary by the current government. The ESSE and SWESSE Boards have both expressed concern over the situation and feel it is important to inform our colleagues: please see the [Statement of the European University Association](#) for details.

3. NATIONAL FORUM FOR ENGLISH STUDIES, MALMÖ, 2019

Malmö University – the Faculty of Education and Society, and the Faculty of Culture and Society – is proud to host the National Forum for English Studies 2019. The conference will be held at the Faculty of Education and Society **10-12 April 2019**. The theme of the conference is “English in Transformation”. The confirmed keynote speakers are as follows:

- Robert O’Dowd (University of Léon): *Establishing the Impact of Virtual Exchange in Foreign Language Education*
- Phil Nel (Kansas State University), Lissa Paul (Brock University), Nina Christensen (Aarhus University): *Keywords for Children’s Literature: Mapping Meaning, Transforming Research*
- Otto Kruse and Christian Rapp (Zurich University): *Recent Developments in Writing Technology*

The **keynote abstracts** are attached with this newsletter (and are available on the SWESSE website). The keynote lectures are (among other things) intended to serve as inspiration for three parallel workshops. In these, the conference participants will be able to discuss potential inter-institutional research collaboration (studies, research applications) based loosely on the area of research presented in the keynotes (literature, virtual exchange, and writing technology). In addition, there will be paper, panel and poster sessions.

The **CFP** is attached with this newsletter (and is available on the SWESSE website). If you have any questions, please contact bjorn.sundmark@mau.se or anna.warnsby@mau.se.

4. PROFESSORS’ MEETING, MALMÖ, 2019

In April 2018 we had our first joint meeting of Professors of English Literature and Professors of English Linguistics, as I reported in the SWESSE newsletter in May. This proved to be a very stimulating and informative get-together, and it was decided to continue with this format in 2019. Therefore a slot has been allocated for a similar meeting during the National Forum in **Malmö**, on **11 April from 15.30 to 18.00**. The suggestion is that we have a joint meeting (Literature and Linguistics) from 15.30 to 16.30, and separate meetings for Literature and Linguistics from 16.30 to 18.00. It would be great if as many as possible could attend to exchange ideas and experiences with regard to teaching, administration and research activities. The meeting is aimed at all professors (both recruited and promoted) within the English subject, and I would be very happy to learn of any newly-promoted/recruited professors that I should add to my mailing list.

5. NORDIC ASSOCIATION OF ENGLISH STUDIES

SWESSE members are also considered members of the Nordic Association of English Studies (NAES). The triennial **Conference of the Nordic Association of English Studies** will be held at Aarhus University, Denmark, 8–10 May 2019. The focus of the conference is

“Exchange, Transformation, Communication”. Plenary speakers will include **Michael Eaton**, MBE (playwright and scriptwriter) and Prof. **Alastair Pennycook** (Distinguished Professor of Language, Society and Education, University of Technology, Sydney). Please see the conference website for details: <https://events.au.dk/naes2019/about.html>. Abstracts for 20-minute papers must be submitted via the NAES2019 website by **30 November 2018**.

6. SWESSE AWARDS FOR BEST BA THESES IN ENGLISH

Each Swedish University or other Institution of Higher Education offering courses in English at BA-level may nominate **one** BA-level thesis in literature and **one** in linguistics for Best English Thesis over the two preceding academic years. Nominations should be preceded by a collegial decision at each department, and the student whose thesis is submitted should be informed of this.

This will be the third occasion that SWESSE will present this award, and this time, we welcome **nominations for BA theses in English defended in 2017 and 2018**. Nominations must include electronic copies of the theses nominated (as Word-files), and should be sent to the Chair of each respective awards committee, by **January 31, 2019**. The juries in each category will meet in February 2019 to reach a decision on the award-winning theses. The awards will be presented at the National Forum for English Studies meeting in Malmö in April 2019, to the prize-winning students, who will be invited to attend.

Please send the nominated theses to the following:

Chair of Linguistics Committee: Prof. Emerita Solveig Granath, Karlstad University: Solveig.Granath@kau.se

Chair of Literature Committee: Prof. Emerita Irene Gilsenan Nordin, Dalarna University: ign@du.se.

7. INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

SWESSE Membership

All questions relating to membership should be addressed to SWESSE Treasurer Anna Swärdh, anna.swardh@kau.se.

SWESSE Website

We welcome information regarding forthcoming conferences, workshops, and other academic activities of interest for posting on the SWESSE website: <http://swesse.se/>. Please send any such information to Stuart Robertson, stuart.robertson@engelska.uu.se.

English Studies in Sweden webpage

The idea behind this particular page of the SWESSE website is to give members quick access to an *overview* of who is doing what, and where, rather than having to navigate a host of university websites (which are not always up-to-date). This however, will only work if institutions send us a brief text (preferably with hyperlinks to emails and suchlike), and update this at least once a year: currently the page is not up-to-date and some institutions are not even listed. So, **if you want to promote your institution, particular programmes, and highlight specific research projects, as well as list the permanent staff members, then this webpage is the place for you!** Please send your brief text to Stuart Robertson, stuart.robertson@engelska.uu.se.

SWESSE mailing list

If you wish information such as calls for papers to be circulated directly to members, please e-mail me, terry.walker@miun.se.

Best regards from an autumnal but sunny Sundsvall,

Terry Walker
SWESSE President