

## **SWESSE (THE SWEDISH SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ENGLISH) NEWSLETTER, September 2020**

Dear SWESSE Members,

Welcome to your 2020 update on SWESSE-related activities and events of potential relevance and interest to members. I hope you are all coping well under the current circumstances, and here's hoping that we can escape the virtual world and meet again in real life fairly soon!

### **REPORT FROM THE ESSE BOARD MEETING, LYON, 2020**

As representative for SWESSE, I attended my fourth board meeting of ESSE (the European Society for the Study of English) on 31 August. This should have taken place in Lyon, France, but was instead a marathon all-day session in Zoom. A summary of the key decisions made by the Board can be found here: <https://essenglish.org/decisions-taken-by-the-board-2020/>.

#### ***ESSE Messenger***

Here is a reminder about the Winter 2020 issue of the ESSE Messenger. The theme for the issue is: “‘Make ’em cry, make ’em laugh, make ’em wait’: Sensation, mystery and detection in the Victorian novel” and the deadline for submissions is 15 November 2020. For further details see <https://essenglish.org/messenger/cfps/>.

#### ***EJES (European Journal of English Studies)***

EJES is the official journal of ESSE, a peer-reviewed journal published by Routledge. The current editors are **Greta Olson** (Justus Liebig University, Giessen), **Isabel Carrera Suárez** (University of Oviedo) and **Katerina Kitsi-Mitakou** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki). The book review editor is **Adam Piette** (University of Sheffield). For further info on *EJES*, see <http://essenglish.org/ejes/>.

#### **ESSE BOOK GRANTS AND BURSARIES**

ESSE offers both grants for the purchase of books and bursaries. The deadline for the submission of applications for book grants is **1 May 2021**; the deadline for the submission of applications for bursaries is **1 March 2021**. Please see the [ESSE website](#) for details.

### **THE 15TH ESSE CONFERENCE, LYON, 2021**

The conference that was to take place in Lyon, France, in August-September 2020, has been postponed to 2021. The organizing committee and the Executive of ESSE are still hopeful that the general situation will improve by 2021 and that ESSE-15 can be held on site in Lyon next summer, from 30 August to 3 September. They are also exploring the option of holding the whole conference online. In either case, only minor adjustments will be made to the scientific program as follows:

- all the invited plenary speakers and parallel lecturers are retained;
- all the accepted roundtables and seminars are retained (no new roundtables/seminars can be accepted);
- the number of allotted slots (1, 2 or 3) for each seminar is retained (no new slots can be allotted);
- the lists of participants for each roundtable/seminar can be adjusted (new names/talks can be added) – the minimum number of speakers per 2-hour slot is 4, the maximum is 6.

See <http://www.esse2020lyon.fr/en> for the latest information. A new situation update will be circulated by the organisers in early 2021.

## **NATIONAL FORUM FOR ENGLISH STUDIES, 2021**

The 11th National Forum for English Studies will take place 21-23 April, 2021, at Södertörn University, Huddinge, Sweden. The conference theme is “Rethinking English Studies”, which reflects the goal of using the conference to address such questions as the following: In a global context of rising nationalism and populism, of closing borders and faltering supranational arrangements, what is the role reserved for English? Following Brexit, are we to expect a shift in the symbolic status of the English language and its culture at a European and national level? What can English Studies as an academic field offer society in this context? As the intellectual and professional expectations of students of English change, how is the discipline of English Studies to rethink its purpose and future? The conference will offer an opportunity for teachers and researchers in linguistics, literature, and pedagogy to reflect on these and other questions of relevance to the study of English in Sweden today.

The confirmed keynote speakers are **Robert Eaglestone**, Professor of Contemporary Literature and Thought at the Department of English at Royal Holloway, University of London; **Elizabeth Peterson**, Associate Professor of English Philology at the Department of Languages, University of Helsinki; **Pia Sundquist**, Associate Professor of English Language Education at the Department of Teacher Education and School Research, University of Oslo.

The organisers welcome participation in the form of papers, panels, or workshops related to the Forum theme or to the general area of higher education studies in English linguistics, literature, culture, or language education.

- **Individual papers:** 20-minute presentations followed by 10-minute discussions. Abstracts for papers should not exceed 250 words excluding paper title, author names, affiliations, email addresses, reference list and 3-5 keywords.
- **Panels:** 90-minute sessions consisting of 3-4 related papers. Abstracts for thematic paper sessions should include the rationale for the session and individual contribution abstracts, altogether not exceeding 1000 words excluding panel title, author names, affiliations, email addresses, reference lists and 3-5 keywords.
- **Workshops:** 60-minute sessions of instruction, discussion, or active participation. Proposals for workshops should not exceed 250 words excluding workshop title, organiser name(s), affiliations, email addresses, and 3-5 keywords.

For further information, see the conference website: <http://www.swesse2021.se/>

## **SWESSE BA THESIS AWARDS**

Each Swedish University or other Institution of Higher Education offering courses in English at BA-level may nominate **one** BA-level thesis in literature, **one** in linguistics, and **one** BA-level thesis in a field other than Literature or Linguistics for Best English Thesis. 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 fourth occasion that SWESSE will present these awards, and this time, we welcome **nominations for BA theses in English defended in 2019 and 2020**. 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 **31 January 2021**. The prize-winners will be invited to attend the SWESSE General Meeting at the National Forum for English Studies at Södertörn University in April 2021, where the awards will be presented.

Please send nominated theses to the appropriate chair listed below:

Chair of Linguistics Committee: Kristy Beers Fägersten, Södertörn University:  
[kristy.beers.fagersten@sh.se](mailto:kristy.beers.fagersten@sh.se)

Chair of Literature Committee: Giles Whitely, Stockholm University:  
[giles.whiteley@english.su.se](mailto:giles.whiteley@english.su.se)

Chair of Committee for fields other than Linguistics or Literature: BethAnne Paulsrud, Dalarna University: [byp@du.se](mailto:byp@du.se)

## **NORDIC ASSOCIATION FOR ENGLISH STUDIES (NAES)**

The Nordic Association for English Studies (NAES) exists in order to advance research and study in the Nordic countries of the English language and of Anglophone literatures and societies. It seeks to achieve this aim primarily through the holding of triennial international conferences in the Nordic countries. The most recent conference was in Aarhus, Denmark in 2019. **The NAES conference in May 2022 will be hosted by Stockholm University** and organised by Anna Swärdh. NAES is affiliated to ESSE, and also has close connections with the Danish Association of English Studies (DAES), the Finnish Society for the Study of English (FINSSE), the Norwegian Society for English Studies (NORSE), and SWESSE. There is currently no website for NAES, but for more information, see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1725418044367398/?ref=bookmarks>.

## **ENGLISH STUDIES IN SWEDEN**

On the SWESSE website, we have a page dedicated to [English Studies in Sweden](#). The idea behind this is to create and maintain a one-stop resource for keeping up-to-date with the teaching, research and staff in English studies at higher education institutions across Sweden. This is a potentially invaluable resource but requires regular input from each institution to make this work. Please contact Stuart Robertson, [stuart.robertson@engelska.uu.se](mailto:stuart.robertson@engelska.uu.se), if your institution would like to update or add a paragraph giving an overview of courses offered, research profiles, and current staff.

## **SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA**

I take this opportunity to remind you, on behalf of the LDN (Litteraturdidaktiskt nätverk), of the seminar presentation by Janice Bland (Nord University, Bodø, Norway) entitled “Picturebooks and creative writing with young learners” to be hosted in [Zoom](#) by Jönköping University on 9 October 2020.

A symposium hosted by Mid-Sweden University entitled **Incorporating Corpora in Teaching** will take place in Zoom on Friday 23 October 2020. Please contact me, [terry.walker@miun.se](mailto:terry.walker@miun.se), if you would like further details.

Also to be hosted by Mid-Sweden University in Zoom is the symposium **Eco-Critical Directions: Where Next for the Drama of Climate Crisis?** on 26 November 2020 (contact

Vicky Angelaki, [vicky.angelaki@miun.se](mailto:vicky.angelaki@miun.se), for details) and the symposium **A New Poetics of Space: Literary Walks in Times of Pandemics and Climate Change** on 7 December 2020 (for further information, contact Lucy Jeffery, [lucy.jeffery@miun.se](mailto:lucy.jeffery@miun.se)).

Do please continue to send in information about upcoming seminars, symposia, calls for papers and the like for dissemination to SWESSE members (see information and contacts below).

## **INFORMATION AND CONTACTS**

### **SWESSE Membership**

All questions relating to membership should be addressed to SWESSE Treasurer Anna Swardh, [anna.swardh@english.su.se](mailto:anna.swardh@english.su.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](mailto: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](mailto:terry.walker@miun.se).

Best regards from sunny Sundsvall,

Terry Walker  
SWESSE President