

## **SWESSE (THE SWEDISH SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ENGLISH) NEWSLETTER, May 2018**

Dear SWESSE Members,

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

### **REPORT FROM SWESSE BOARD MEETING, UPPSALA, 2018**

The SWESSE Board met on Friday 11 May at Uppsala University. All members except the doctoral student representative were able to attend what we all agreed was a very productive meeting. Apart from the regular business, the board members discussed the SWESSE website and how best to exploit it: two things that we agreed to try concern the online forum and the ‘English Studies in Sweden’ page.

#### **SWESSE website forum**

A forum was created on the SWESSE website some years back, but it has not been much used. However, what it seems the forums might be useful for is networking and/or discussion of issues of central interest to us as teachers and researchers at Swedish universities. The board members agreed that all SWESSE members (and only SWESSE members) will be offered log-in details for access to the forum. Stuart Robertson, our webmaster extraordinaire, will contact members about this in due time.

#### **English Studies in Sweden page**

“Here you can find information about the broad variety of teaching and research in English linguistics and literary studies in English carried out by SWESSE members at universities and colleges across Sweden” is the text under the heading of this page of the SWESSE website.

The idea behind this page is to give members quick access to an *overview* of who is doing what, 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](mailto:stuart.robertson@engelska.uu.se). In future newsletters I will remind members to update the information.

### **PROFESSORS’ MEETING, KARLSTAD, 2018**

At the National Forum in Jönköping in 2017, I was asked to arrange a meeting of professors of English. In the past such meetings have been organised for professors of English Literature and English Linguistics respectively, and the idea this time was to organise an informal meeting of all professors of English (both recruited and promoted) in Sweden where we could exchange ideas and experiences with regard to teaching, administration and research activities. Professor Andrea Schalley was kind enough to offer to host the meeting at Karlstad University, and the meeting took place on Wednesday 11 April 2018. Some of the issues discussed include the evaluation of doctoral programmes, early career mentoring, and the

decline in student numbers other than in teacher education. The value of SWESSE for spreading information was recognised, and there were suggestions for exploiting the SWESSE website further. It was agreed that we should have another such meeting at the National Forum in 2019. Also mentioned was the need to maintain the mailing list of professors – for which purposes the abovementioned ‘English Studies in Sweden’ page would be a welcome resource if kept updated.

### **14TH ESSE CONFERENCE, BRNO 2018**

The next ESSE Conference will be hosted by Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic on 29 August–2 September 2018. Registration has been open since 1 March, and early registration fees apply until 31 May 2018. The complete conference programme will be available in July. For information about the conference, see <http://www.esse2018brno.org/>. As usual, the ESSE Board Meeting, which I plan to attend, will also be held during the ESSE conference.

### **NATIONAL FORUM FOR ENGLISH STUDIES**

Last May, I circulated the information that the next National Forum, to be held in 2019, would be hosted by Halmstad University. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Halmstad has since had to withdraw, but Björn Sundmark and his colleagues at Malmö University very kindly stepped in and offered to host the 2019 National Forum. More details will be forthcoming in the Autumn Newsletter, and of course, from the team at Malmö University.

### **NORDIC CONFERENCE OF ENGLISH STUDIES**

SWESSE members are also considered members of the Nordic Association of English Studies (NAES). The 14th Nordic Conference of English Studies will be held at Aarhus University, Denmark on 8–10 May 2019. Further details will be circulated in due time.

### **SWESSE AWARDS FOR BEST BA THESES IN ENGLISH**

I included the information below in my previous newsletter, but given the deadline is not till the end of January 2019, it seemed a good idea to remind everyone that **BA theses from both 2017 and 2018 can be nominated.**

In order to encourage and reward research excellence in English, SWESSE will continue to award a biennial prize for outstanding BA theses in English, in literature and linguistics respectively. Theses taking a didactic approach in either area will also be considered.

The rules and regulations are as follows:

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 theses 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 Halmstad, Spring 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](mailto:Solveig.Granath@kau.se)

Chair of Literature Committee: Prof. Emerita Irene Gilsenan Nordin, Dalarna University:  
[ign@du.se](mailto:ign@du.se)

We look forward to receiving your nominations. For further details, see the SWESSE homepage, <http://swesse.se/>.

## INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

### SWESSE Membership

All questions relating to membership should be addressed to SWESSE Treasurer Anna Swårdh, [anna.swardh@kau.se](mailto: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](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