



Dear all,
Happy May, and Happy Star Wars Day!

This newsletter comes a bit earlier than usual since it includes a conference call with an upcoming deadline.

The 2023 National Forum for English Studies

The 2023 National Forum for English Studies, held 26-28 April at Mälardalen University, was a terrific success! Congratulations and many thanks to the efficient organizers and lovely hosts: Thorsten Schröter, Olcay Sert, Elizabeth Wulff-Sahlén, and Marwa Amri. The Forum's keynote speakers, Fionna Farr (University of Limerick), Bo Ekelund (Stockholm University), and Tom Morton (Autonomous University of Madrid) delivered excellent lectures, highly relevant to the audience of teachers and researchers in English Studies. The Forum also included a delicious dinner at Västerås Castle featuring a hugely entertaining and aptly themed music quiz.

Distinguished Keynote Address

The SWESSE Board has recently instituted the Distinguished Keynote Address award, to be conferred to one of the keynote speakers at each National Forum. The first recipient of the award, Fiona Farr, was informed of the decision in earlier correspondence, but the news of the award was announced to the conference participants during the welcome session.

SWESSE General Assembly (GA)

Despite the shared enthusiasm for meeting in person for the National Forum, I am at least grateful to be back in the controlled mode of emails and newsletters. As first-time chair of the SWESSE General Assembly, I was more confused than commanding, but nevertheless managed to get through the agenda. I first reported on my own activities as President since being elected in April 2021. In addition to holding SWESSE Board meetings in May 2022 and April 2023, I also attended the ESSE board meeting and conference (online) in Lyon, August 2022, and the ESSE board meeting and conference in Mainz (in person), August 2022. In 2022, I served as assistant auditor of the ESSE budget, and as main auditor in 2023. In August 2023, I will attend, as co-convenor of the linguistics section, the pre-ESSE Doctoral Symposium as well as the ESSE board meeting in Milan.

During the GA, Annika Denke was elected as Vice-President, Tim Roberts as Secretary, Parvin Gheitasi as Board member, and Linda Eriksson as Board member and Doctoral student representative. Anna Swärdh will continue as Treasurer, and Marie Nordlund as Board Member. Thanks go out to Jonathan White and Maria Freij for their work on the Election Committee, and many thanks to Åke Persson and Stuart Robertson for their service to the SWESSE Board.

The GA also featured SWESSE budget reports from the Treasurer and budget auditor reports from Maria Wiktorsson and Dusan Stamenkovic for the years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. Many thanks to all three for their service.

Terry Walker and Virginia Langum presented their work on the Nordic Journal of English Studies and encouraged more submissions from scholars in the Nordic region. Please consider submitting your research articles there and spread the word!

The next National Forum for English Studies will be held in 2025. It's never too early to consider hosting, and the SWESSE board is especially encouraging bids from universities not yet represented. So far, the Forum has been held in/at Gothenburg, Karlstad, Uppsala, Blekinge, Malmö, Dalarna, Umeå, Linnaeus, Luleå, Jönköping, Södertorn, and Mälardalen.

The SWESSE Bachelor Thesis Award

The 2021-2022 Bachelor Thesis Awards were announced at the GA. The prize for the best essay in literature was awarded to Maria Palmkvist, Gothenburg University, for her essay, "Tangled in a Golden Mesh: Synesthesia in Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* and *To the Lighthouse*", and the prize for the best essay in Linguistics was awarded to Frida Johansson, Mid-Sweden University, for her essay, "The grammaticalization of adverb *just* in Early Modern English." Neither of the winners were able to attend the Forum. No prize was awarded for the category of Other. Instigated by discussion during the GA of the Other category, the Board decided to rename the categories as: English literature and culture, English linguistics, and English education.

Thesis award committees

The committees for essays in English linguistics and in English education are in need of some new members. Anyone with specializations in these areas who is also experienced in BA essay supervision and examination and interested and active in academic writing is welcome to contact me. The next round of essay judging will be in early 2025.

The committee for essays in English literature and culture includes Giles Whiteley, Chair (SU), Marius Hentea (GU), and Virginia Langum (UmU).

The BA thesis in English

The 2023 National Forum included much discussion about degree theses / Bachelor's theses / C-essays (*kärt barn...*). These essays are critical to the evaluations of our degree programs, and at the same time we all struggle with preparing students adequately, having enough time for meaningful supervision, and reflecting consistency in standards and quality in our examination and grading criteria. There seems to be a general interest in discussing essays, sharing our practices, learning from each other, and achieving some consistency. The SWESSE Board has therefore decided to set a goal to facilitate this work during 2023-2024; requests, suggestions, and offers are welcome!

ESSE 2024

The next ESSE conference will take place at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, 26-30 August 2024. Please note! In addition to the plenary lectures, there will be approximately 12 **parallel lectures** given by ESSE members nominated by their national associations. These parallel lectures should be forty-five minutes in length, have a wide appeal, and reflect recent developments in scholarship in one of three areas: 1) English Language, 2) Literatures in English, and 3) Cultural and Area Studies. National associations (such as SWESSE) should forward a description of their nominee's proposed topic together with a brief summary of

their CV. Each national association can propose up to three lecturers, one for each of the three main fields mentioned above, so that the Academic Program Committee (APC) can have a wide range of options for the final selection. Conference fees for parallel lecturers will be fully waived. Suggestions for lecturers should be sent to kristy.beers.fagersten@sh.se by 10 June 2023. Should several nominations be submitted in one or more areas, the Board will determine which nomination to forward to the ESSE organizers. Additional information and calls can be found on the conference [website](#).

SWESSE website

The aim of the SWESSE BOARD is to maintain an up-to-date and informative [website](#). Please continue to submit news of relevant conferences, calls for papers, and employment opportunities (kristy.beers.fagersten@sh.se). There is also a section on the website devoted to books authored by members of SWESSE, so please consider sharing such information, too. Additional ideas and suggestions for the website are appreciated!

This summer's television tips

This summer's television tips include a short series available on SVT Play called, *Vem mördade skolan?* It's hosted by Jesper Rönndahl who, with great humor, traces the development and demise of the Swedish school system. I can almost guarantee that there is something new to learn, even for those of you who are experts. But if not, then there's at least good opportunity to laugh (or cry) along to all of the absurdities you will recognize.

Good luck with the remainder of the Spring term and enjoy a lovely Summer!

Best,
Kristy.

Kristy Beers Fägersten, SWESSE President