

Dear all,

I hope you had a terrific summer break and have settled in for the Fall term! This September 2023 newsletter features reports from both the ESSE Board and SWESSE Board meetings.

The 2023 ESSE Board meeting

This year's ESSE Board meeting was held 25-27 August in Milan. Among the items on the meeting agenda was a progress report from the ESSE 2024 academic programming committee, including an announcement that the roster of parallel lectures has been decided. **SWESSE nominated two candidates for parallel lectures**, both of whom were accepted: Andrea Schalley, Karlstad University and Roberto del Valle Alcalá, Södertörn University. Congratulations to both! Additional announcements and important decisions made at the 2023 ESSE Board meeting can be found [here](#).

The current president of ESSE, Andreas Jucker, will step down next year, with a new president to be elected at the ESSE conference in Lausanne, 26-30 August 2024. The ESSE nominations committee is accepting nominations until 30 April 2024. Information on the ESSE 2024 conference (including deadlines) can be found [here](#); information on funding and awards sponsored by ESSE (including deadlines) can be found [here](#);

The 2023 ESSE Doctoral Symposium

The ESSE Board meeting was preceded by the Doctoral Symposium, 23-25 August. I served as co-convenor of the Linguistics stream of the Doctoral Symposium this year, but sadly only five participants registered. The streams of Literature and Cultural Studies had much greater representation. **The Doctoral Symposium runs every year, and there is generous funding available**, so please spread the word to doctoral students. Information about the Doctoral Symposium can be found [here](#).

Fall 2023 SWESSE Board meeting

The SWESSE Board met on 11 September 2023. Among the discussion points was finding a host for the **2025 National Forum for English Studies**. It is never too early to start planning, so the Board encourages all of our colleagues to consider hosting. The departments of English at **Stockholm University, Lund University, Linköping University, and Mid-Sweden University** have yet to host, so they are particularly welcome to express an interest! Any questions about hosting the National Forum can be sent to me, or I am happy to have a (digital) meeting for a more in-depth discussion. At present, our colleagues at Örebro University have volunteered to host the 2027 National Forum.

The Board also discussed organizing an activity every other Spring (non-Forum years) for SWESSE members. We propose commencing with a pilot project in the form of a **criteria workshop for the SWESSE thesis awards committee members**. The details have yet to be ironed out, but we are planning on a three-hour, online workshop to be held during the Spring 2024 semester. On that note, there are **vacancies on all three awards committees**: English Linguistics, English Literature and Culture, English Education. Please contact me if you are interested in joining a committee.

The Board would also like to thank SWESSE member Dusan Stamenkovic, Södertörn University, for designing the **new logo** for SWESSE, featured in the header of this newsletter and on the SWESSE website.

Theater thoughts

I have now seen "Alltid vara vi" three times, I left "Röde Orm" during intermission, and I'm looking forward to seeing "The Vegetarian" at Dramaten in November.

Best,

Kristy Beers Fägersten, SWESSE President