

Dear SWESSE members,

I hope the Fall term is off to a promising start! This September 2025 newsletter features reports from both the ESSE Board and SWESSE Board meetings.

The 2025 ESSE Board meeting

This year's ESSE Board meeting was held 5-6 September in Valletta, Malta. Among the items on the meeting agenda were elections for a new secretary (Martina Domines, University of Zagreb) and a new treasurer (Angelika Reichmann, Eszterházy Károly University) as well as a progress report from the ESSE 2026 academic programming committee. During the presentation of the progress report, the Board learned of the APC's decision to invite an author (!) instead of a researcher to deliver the keynote in literature, leading to an animated debate among the Board's literary scholars. More information about the ESSE Board meeting and additional decisions made can be found [here](#).

It was confirmed that the ESSE 2026 conference (and next Board meeting) will be held the University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 31 August – 4 September. Seminar proposal acceptances have been sent, and the call for papers will be published soon. More information about the 2026 ESSE conference can be found [here](#).

The ESSE Board would also like to remind all members that ESSE offers bursaries and funding with a new application cycle starting soon. During conference years, ESSE confers book awards, so please consider submitting any new books related to English studies for an award. More information on funding and awards sponsored by ESSE (including deadlines) can be found [here](#). Please send any titles of books published in 2025 to me, for inclusion on the SWESSE website.

The 2025 ESSE Doctoral Symposium

The ESSE Board meeting was preceded by the Doctoral Symposium, 3-4 September. Normally, fewer doctoral students participate in the symposium in non-conference years, but this year, there was a particularly low turnout. Furthermore, not even all of the participating doctoral students took advantage of the generous funding opportunities available through ESSE. If you are a doctoral student, please consider participating in the symposium; if you know a doctoral student, please encourage them to participate. Note, too, that it is also possible to apply to SWESSE for doctoral symposium funding. Information about the ESSE Doctoral Symposium can be found [here](#); questions about SWESSE funding can be directed to me.

Fall 2025 SWESSE Board meeting

The SWESSE Board met on 12 September 2025. The agenda included a discussion of finding a host for the **2027 National Forum for English Studies**. It is never too early to start planning, so the Board encourages all of our colleagues to consider hosting. Any questions can be sent to me, or I am happy to have a (digital) meeting for a more in-depth discussion. Formal proposals will be due in December.

Serve on the SWESSE Board!

Please consider nominating yourself or someone else to serve on the SWESSE Board. Elections will be held at the General Assembly in 2027 for the following vacancies: President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. Inquiries and nominations can be sent to the elections committee: Maria Freij (maria.freij@hkr.se); Denise Bergström (denise.bergstrom@ltu.se); Jenny Malmqvist (jenny.malmqvist@ju.se).

Stop Making Sense

Considered to be the best concert movie ever, Stop Making Sense featuring the Talking Heads was recently shown at one of my neighborhood theaters. If it comes to a theater near you, run don't walk for tickets! Terrific music, an iconic big suit, and some quick peeks at rad 80s fashion.

Best,
Kristy Beers Fägersten, SWESSE President