



**AASSC/AAESC CONFERENCE PROGRAM**  
**at CONGRESS 2015**  
**MONDAY JUNE 1 – THURSDAY JUNE 4, 2015**  
**UNIVERSITY of OTTAWA**  
**Lamoureux Building (LMX)**

**Monday, June 1**

**2:00 pm – 5:00 pm: AASSC Executive Meeting.** Venue: **LMX/315** (Office of the Dean)

**5:30 pm – 7:30 pm: AASSC Opening Garden Reception** at the Residence of Her Excellency Mona E. Brøther, Norwegian Ambassador to Canada (by invitation only) – bus departs from the Lamoureux Building (145 J.J.Lussier) at 5:00 pm

**Tuesday, June 2 Venue this morning only: LMX 122**

**8.30 am – 9:00 am:**

**Welcome** and Introductory Remarks: Ingrid Urberg, President

**9:00 am – 10:30 am: AASSC/CINS KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MARIANNE T. STECHER**  
(Professor in Danish Studies, Department of Scandinavian Studies, University of Washington, Seattle): **"Liberating Ideas – Marriage, Morality, and Nordic Women Writers at 1915: Karen Blixen on Love and Modern Marriage"**  
**Chair:** Mads Bunch (University of Copenhagen)

The keynote address takes the centennial of women's suffrage in Denmark in 1915 as the point of departure and connects it to the changing views on marriage and sexuality morality in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, in particular to Karen Blixen's experimental essay, "On Modern Marriage and Other Observations."

The lecture opens with a discussion of the Danish women's movement and the role of Karen Blixen's aunt, the feminist and activist, Mary Bess Westenholz, who famously stormed the Danish parliament in 1909. Then the lecture turns to questions of marriage as an evolving institution, and to Nordic literary works of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, which reflect social anxieties around marriage and women's new freedoms. Literary texts of this period often depict marital infidelity ('faithless wives') and women in conflict with maternal roles; Sigrid Undset's *Fru Marta Oulie* (1907) presents one such example that is illuminated further by Undset's essays.

The lecture focusses on Karen Blixen's essay "On Modern Marriage and Other Observations," written in 1923/24, in which the author provocatively proclaims that the old marriage institution, "based on family, clan or nation," is dead, an empty shell. Instead, Blixen proposes that "a new kind of marriage" has arisen, a voluntary love relationship between two individuals made possible by advances in birth control and women's



emancipation. Blixen's essay demonstrates her standing as a progressive European intellectual engaged in the topical debates of her day and attuned with the complexities of feminist movements in the 1920s. Her essay "On Modern Marriage" seems to anticipate current social debates on same-sex marriage and new reproduction technologies.

*10:30 am – 11:00 am: Break*

**11:00 am – 12:30 pm: Session I**

**Venue: LMX 122 (Same as for the keynote address)**

**Chair:** Marina Allemanno (University of Alberta)

**Barbara Tesio** (University of Edinburgh): "Isak Dinesen's Different Voice. Pierre Andrézel and the Problematization of the Condition of Women in *The Angelic Avengers*"

**Laura Horak** (Carleton University): "Sex, Nature, and Modernity in Mauritz Stiller's Golden Age Films"

**Katja Will** (University of Greifswald): "More or Less a Man. Contemporary Concepts of Masculinity in Scandinavian Cinema"

*12:30 pm – 2:00 pm: Lunch Break*

**2:00 pm – 3:30 pm: Session II**

**Venue: Please move to LMX 407 (Same classroom for the rest of our conference)**

**Chair:** Birgitta Wallace (Parks Canada, retired)

**Jessica Auer** (Concordia University): "The Archeological Eye: An Artist's Excavation of L'anse aux Meadows"

**Henning Howlid Wærp** (University of Tromsø): "The Arctic Pastoral"

*3:30 pm – 4:00 pm: Break*

**4:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Session III**

**Chair:** John Tucker (University of Victoria)

**Natalie van Deusen** (University of Alberta): "'Pall postoli baud, at konur þegdi i kirkiu': Views on Female Preaching in Old Norse-Icelandic Religious Literature"

**Céline Leduc** (University of Ottawa): "Defining *Seiðr*: Magical or Shamanic?"

**5:15 pm – 6:00 pm:** Exploratory discussion forum on Teaching Scandinavian Topics in Canada, introduced and chaired by Erin Halstad McGuire (University of Victoria)

**Wednesday, June 3 Venue: LMX 407 (Same as Tuesday afternoon)**

**9:00 am – 10:30 am: Session IV**

**Chair:** Natalie van Deusen (University of Alberta)



**John Lingard** (Cape Breton University): "Attic as Therapy: An Approach to Ibsen's *The Wild Duck* through Alain de Botton's and John Armstrong's Theory of Art"

**Marina Allemanno** (University of Alberta): "The Secret Lives of Dolls and Robots: Agency and Control in Dorrit Willumsen's Fiction"

**Mads Bunch** (University of Copenhagen): "Three Different Types of Auto-fiction in Contemporary Scandinavian Literature"

*10:30 am – 11:00 am: Break*

**11:00 am – 12:30 pm: Session V Venue: LMX 407**

**Chair:** Helga Thorson (University of Victoria)

**Trygve Ugland** (Bishop's University): "Lesson-Drawing as 'Work' and 'Game' in Scandinavian Politics: The Canadian Immigration and Integration Policy Model in Denmark, Norway and Sweden"

**Hilmar Þór Hilmarsson** (University of Akureyri): "Crisis Response and Post Crisis Results: The Case of Latvia and Iceland"

**Marta Grzechnik** (University of Gdansk / Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University, Greifswald): "Across the Sea: Sweden and Its Baltic Sea Neighbours in the Twentieth Century"

**12:30 pm – 1:30 pm: Working lunch** (sandwiches at small fee) **(same classroom)**

**1:30 pm – 4:00 pm: AASSC AGM (Please stay in the same classroom)**

*5:00 pm – 7:30 pm: President's Reception* Reception tent at 90 U (University Private)

**8:00 pm – 10:00 pm: AASSC Banquet** (ticketed event) **Le Café at the National Arts Centre, Ottawa** (short walk from campus)

**Thursday, June 4 Venue: LMX 407**

**9:00 am – 10:30 am: Session VI**

**Chair:** Susan Gold/Smith (University of Windsor)

**Haley Isaak** (University of Manitoba): "The Invention of 'Cool': Connecting Threads of Danish Art and Design"

**Lise Bostrup** (Studieskolen, Copenhagen): "Teaching Danish Pronunciation Today"

**Kendra Coulter** (Brock University): "Animals, Work and the Swedish Model: Multispecies Reflections"

*10:30 am – 11:00 am: Break*

**11:00 am – 12:00 pm: Session VII**

**Chair:** John Nilson (Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, Regina)



**Ian Giles** (University of Edinburgh): "Crime Fiction Writers Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö in English: A Case of *sui generis* Scandinavian Literary Transmission?"

**Vangie Bergum** (University of Alberta): "'Who Do You Think You Are?' Connecting Family and Community through Stories/Secrets"

**12:00 pm: Closing Remarks** Ingrid Urberg, President of AASSC

**5:30 pm – 8:00 pm:** His Excellency, Ambassador of Sweden Per Sjögren is pleased to welcome the AASSC Conference participants to a Swedish summer buffet on the occasion of the National Day of Sweden (by invitation only)

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AASSC Program for Congress 2015 as per May 27, 2015

Note: For further information, please contact Dr. Gurli Woods, AASSC Program Chair, at [gurli.woods@carleton.ca](mailto:gurli.woods@carleton.ca), or the AASSC home page at [www.AASSC.com](http://www.AASSC.com), or the Congress 2015 website at <http://congress2015.ca/>

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NOTE:

During Congress, you may wish to attend some of the free public "Big Thinking" lectures: **The Big Thinking lecture series is held throughout Congress and is open to all attendees and members of the public.** This series brings together leading scholars and public figures who can present forward-thinking research, ideas and solutions to the critical questions and issues of our time. The 2015 *Big Thinking* lecture series is organized by the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the University of Ottawa.

Speakers:

**The Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair**, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC);

**Joseph Yvon Thériault**, Canada Research Chair in Globalization, Citizenship and Democracy at the Université du Québec à Montréal and Royal Society of Canada Fellow;  
**Monique Proulx**, author, Quebec screenwriter, and a literature and theatre graduate of Université Laval;

Iranian-American author **Azar Nafisi**;

**Irene Bloemraad**, Thomas Garden Barnes Chair of Canadian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley and Senior Scholar with CIFAR, and **Thomas Faist**, Dean of the Faculty of Sociology and Professor of Sociology at Bielefeld University, Germany

For more information, please go to the following website:  
<http://congress2015.ca/program/big-thinking>

Canada  
U.S.  
Nunavut  
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