MYTH, MIGRATION AND MOBILITY
13th Biennial Conference of the
Swedish Association for American Studies (SAAS)
Swedish Emigrant Institute, Växjö, Sweden
October 8 - 9, 2026

All meetings, presentations and meals (except for dinner) will be held in:
Hörsalen, Smålands Museum (1st Floor), Kulturparken Småland, Södra Järnvägsgatan 2, Växjö

Day 1, Thursday, October 8

10:00 - 12:00 Tour exhibit in the House of Emigrants (Optional):
The New Land – The Dream of America
https://www.kulturparkensmaland.se/en/the-house-of-emigrants/
Entrance fee is included in the conference fee.

12:00 - 13:00 Lunch

13:00 - 14:30 **Panel 1: Life Writing, Mobility, Migration**
Chair: Fredrik Svensson, Gävle University

Myths and/of Mobility in Transnational Adoption Life Narratives
Lena Ahlin & Maria Freij, Kristianstad University

Swedish-American Bonds of Womanhood: The Impact of U.S. Anti-Slavery Feminism on Swedish First-Wave Feminism, 1834-1892
Lucia Hodgson, SINAS, Uppsala University

Moving to Belong: Lesbian Mobility and Community Formation in Audre Lorde's Zami: A New Spelling of My Name
Marie-Lou LeFevre, Gothenburg University

"This book is not for the many who are at home in the world": Ellen Glasgow's Homebody Autobiographies and the Idea/Ideal of Exile in 20th-century American Literature
Anna Linzie, Karlstad University

14:30 - 15:00 Fika

15:00 - 16:30 **Panel 2: Newspapers, Print Culture & Public Life**
Chair: Kim Khavar Fahlstedt, Örebro University

A Swedish-American Race? Re-examining the Question of Swedish-American Identity Formation
Erik Thosteman, SINAS, Uppsala University

"Det verkliga lifvet i våra dagar": Cinemagoing and Public Life in Swedish America, 1905–1953
Kim Khavar Fahlstedt, Örebro University

"My heart is still there": Female Return Migrants and Swedish Newspapers
Marie Bennedahl Weber, SINAS, Uppsala University

Making Love with Dangerous Dakota Dick: Era Bell Thompson, the Chicago Defender, and Imagined Community
Cathryn Halverson, Linköping University

16:30 - 17:00 Break

17:00 - 18:00 **Keynote: "The Art of Mobility" by Gunlög Fur, Professor, Linnaeus University**

18:00 - 22:00 Dinner at Villa & Trädgård Deluxe - https://www.villadeluxe.se/

Conference participants purchase their own food and drink on the first floor. SAAS has reserved a room for dining together on the second floor.

Day 2, Friday, October 9

8:00 - 9:00 SAAS General Meeting (All are welcome!)
Hybrid format.
Zoom link: https://oru-se.zoom.us/j/3277138640?pwd=itytngueIo9NF3YQPrt1ufEbsp8aic.1&omn=63291777825
Meeting ID: 327 713 8640
Passcode: SAAS26

9:00 - 10:30 **Panel 3: Hyphenated Identities, Race, and the Political Present**

Chair: Lucia Hodgson, SINAS, Uppsala University

Hyphen-Nation: Two-nesses as American Essence and Bone of Contention

David Östlund, Södertörn University

"Heritage American," Affective Polarization, and the End of the Hyphen Nation?

Adam Hjorthén, SINAS, Uppsala University

Toward a Conceptual History of "Political Correctness"

Magnus Ullén, Stockholm University

10:30 - 11:00 Fika

11:00 - 12:30 **Panel 4: Mediating the Myth**

Chair: Chloé Avril, University of Gothenburg

Imperial Femininity: Columbia, Manifest Destiny and Trump's Triumphal Arc

Hélène Ohlsson, Karlstad University

"More Than We Were Programmed to Be": Technology, Nature, and Paratextual Governance in The Wild Robot

Johan Nilsson, Örebro University

Doing a Die Hard: American Myth and Parody in Rick and Morty

Jonas Lindkvist, Lund University

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch

*** Close of Conference ***

Conference Participants

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