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# Nordic-Baltic Section Guide

## AFS 2017: Minneapolis Edition

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Welcome to Minneapolis and your Nordic-Baltic guide to the 2017 meeting of the American Folklore Society! We've divided our guide into three sections: 1. Special events, 2. Panels of interest, whose foci or a significant portion of panelists are Nordicists or Balticists, and 3. Individual talks that may be of interest to our members. At the end is a schedule of all of the events covered in these three sections.

We've tried to be comprehensive and precise, but the program is subject to change and it's possible we've overlooked a session or talk—in which case, we apologize.

Please especially note the section business meeting, on Friday from 12:45–1:45.

### 1. Special Events

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*Tours, meetings, and other events we hope you'll enjoy attending!*

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

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#### Tour: Markets and Communities

10:00am–2:30pm

Immigrants and refugees in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul area have long created and been sustained by market spaces rich with traditional foods, clothing, music, art, and materials for magic, healing, and religion. This tour will visit several such markets, including the Mercado Central cooperative; Ingebretsen's, a 96-year-old Nordic market; Karmel Square, home to the largest concentration of Somali businesses outside of Somalia; and Hmongtown Marketplace, a sprawling indoor/outdoor complex. Get out of the downtown zone, and experience the rich diversity of this region. Lunch will not be provided, but there will be many opportunities to purchase food along the way.

*Notes: Preregistration required; Bus picks up at main entrance*

#### Opening Ceremony

5:00–6:00 pm, Ballroom 1/2 (4th floor)

Announcement of American Scandinavian Foundation Fellowship Recipients

Friday, October 20, 2017

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### Nordic-Baltic Section Business Meeting

12:45 pm–1:45 pm Birch/Maple

All members should attend. Please note that this meeting occurs during lunch time.

### Nordic-Baltic Folklore Section Reception with Live Music by Finn Hall

5:15–7:15 pm, Atrium (4)

Join the AFS Nordic-Baltic Section for live music from a local Scandihoovian band and a cash bar while we celebrate the Nordic-Baltic heritage of the Twin Cities. Based in Minneapolis, award-winning Finn Hall recreates the feel and sounds of the historic Finnish-American dance halls for local dancers offering waltz, polka, schottische, mazurka, tango, humppa and other dances.

*This activity is made possible by the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies*

Saturday, October 21, 2017

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### Tour: Community Cultural Anchors: Neighborhood Foodways

9:30 am–12:00 pm

Minnesota has been viewed by many as a model for how immigrant resettlement can succeed. Waves of immigration have shaped the storefronts, streetscapes and cultural expressions in the vibrant Phillips Neighborhood, starting with German and Irish, later Swedish and Norwegian and now Mexican, Hmong, Somali and Ojibwe and Dakota nations migrating from rural areas of the state to Minneapolis' city center. This tour offers an opportunity to explore topics raised in 07-06 Museums and Cultural Centers Community (Dis)Engagement and Essentially Becoming Essential in some of the Phillips neighborhood's cultural centers that support the ongoing continuity of cultural traditions and expression, while also paying attention to foodways in the neighborhood. Participants will enjoy unique coffee/tea and pastry favorites as they learn about the cultural anchors—the American Swedish Institute at the New Nordic Café, the Somali Museum of Minnesota at the Bright Moon Café, and the Native American Community Development Institute at All My Relations Gallery and Pow Wow Grounds—and discover how foodway traditions have been sustained, traditions adapted, and cultural expressions have been shaped by the movement of cultural groups in and out of this Minneapolis neighborhood. Transportation provided by the Minnesota Transportation Museum.

*Sponsored by the American Swedish Institute and the Minnesota Transportation Museum*

**Notes: Preregistration required; Bus picks up at main entrance**

## 2. Full Sessions of Interest

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*The following sessions have two or more presentations that touch on Nordic and/or Baltic interests.*

Thursday, October 19, 2017

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### Vernacular Religion on the Move: Routes and Roots of Religious Life In and Out of Norway (01-05)

8:00–10:00 am, Elk Lake

8:00 am How to Become a Saint or a Sorcerer—Vernacular Ideologies in 19th-Century Norway (Dirk Johannsen, Univ. of Oslo)

8:30 am Wonders and Wanderers (Line Esborg, Univ. of Oslo)

9:00 am Retelling Religious Past: Routes and Roots of Neo-Pagan Movements in Norway (Ane Ohrvik, Univ. of Oslo)

9:30 am Old Saints and New Pilgrims on the Move: St. Olav, St. Cuthbert, and Contemporary Currents in Anglo-Nordic Pilgrimage (Marion Bowman, Open Univ.; Univ. of Oslo)

*The panel seeks to illustrate the roots and routes of vernacular religious phenomena in Norway, capturing the importance of movement in relation to places, people and objects over time. Historical negotiations of center and periphery, past and present, sacred and mundane, led to crucial shifts in understandings of religion, folklore and spirituality, creating new pathways both practically and conceptually, many of which are now being restored and “restored.” The case studies focus on physical and social movements and the narrative cultures they create. Travellers in this panel include folklorists and their stories; saints and their relics; pilgrims and their destinations; spiritual seekers and their dreams.*

Friday, October 20, 2017

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### Lumberjack Songs and Songcatchers in the Upper Midwest (04-08)

8:00–10:00 am, Crystal Lake

8:00 am Michael Dean: Indefatigable Irish-Minnesotan Singer and Songcatcher (Brian Miller, Eoin McKiernan Library)

8:30 am In Frenzy’s Footsteps (Gretchen Dykstra, independent)

9:00 am Scandihoovian Lumberjacks: Songs, Songcatchers, Sources, Significance (James P. Leary, Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison (ret.))

9:30 am discussant (Stephen D. Winick, American Folklife Center)

*Coinciding with the publication of *Pinery Boys: Songs and Songcatching in the Lumberjack Era* (2017), our presentations rely on new research to reclaim a complicated almost invisible past by invoking, critically reexamining, and considerably extending folklorists’ understanding of the Upper Midwest’s first two significant lumberjack songcatchers and their intertwined publications: Michael Cassius Dean, compiler of a songster, *Flying Cloud*, and *One Hundred and Fifty Other Old Time Songs and Ballads of Outdoor Men, Sailors, Lumber Jacks, Soldiers, Men of the Great Lakes, Railroadmen, Miners, etc* (1922); and Franz Rickaby, author of *Ballads and Songs of the Shanty-Boy* (1926).*

## Fake News, Part III: Figures of Division in European Politics 04-02

Ballroom 4 (4) 8:00–10:00 am

- 8:00 am The Polish Plumber and the Faceless Bureaucrat: Bogeys and Attributions of Belief in European Union Politics (Dorothy Noyes, The Ohio State Univ.)
- 8:30 am Folklore Applied, or the Making of the President in Belarus (Anastasiya Astapova, Univ. of Tartu)
- 9:00 am Beyond the Café/Pub Split: Vernacular Narrative Practice Concerning the “Refugee Crisis” in the Post-Truth Czech Republic (Petr Janeček, Charles Univ., Prague)
- 9:30 am discussant (Elo-Hanna Seljamaa, Univ. of Tartu)

*This panel, sponsored by the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore as part of the SIEF-AFS sister society collaboration, addresses the interaction of fake news and vernacular narrative in recent European politics. The contestation of truth claims around such polemic figures as the president, the bureaucrat, the immigrant, and the refugee demarcates the acknowledged political divides of contemporary Europe: left and right, democratic and dictatorial, East and West, nationalist and cosmopolitan. Above all, however, the panel reconsiders the epistemological divide that first constituted folklore studies: that between a seemingly rational educated class and a seemingly credulous common people.*

## Music, Identity, and the Nordic-American Experience (06-07)

2:00 pm–4:00 pm, Birch/Maple

- 2:00 pm Militant Pacifists: Swedish-American IWW Poetry and Song during WWI (B. Marcus Cederström, Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison)
- 2:30 pm “Candles on Her Head—That Seems Safe”: Saint Lucia Concerts at Augustana College (Jason Schroeder, Scandinavian Cultural Center (PLU))
- 3:00 pm The Kitchen Sink Approach: Marion Nelson and the Norwegian American Folk Music Festival (Anna Rue, Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison)
- 3:30 pm The Performance of American Working-Class Identity among Working-Class Finns (Nathan Gibson, Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison)

*The historical experiences of Nordic-American immigrants parallel the experience of immigrants today. Some found success in the New World. Others toiled alongside immigrants from around the world. Still others never left, remaining at home in Europe, imagining what life would be like in the United States. This panel examines how music and verse have shaped the identity of Nordic communities, both in the New World and the Old, rural and urban, from WWI to the present. We explore the American experience, real and imagined, through a Nordic lens in an effort to better understand how communities create their own identity.*

Saturday, October 21, 2017

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## Museums and Cultural Centers Community (Dis)Engagement and Essentially Becoming Essential: Forum 07-06

8:00 am–9:30 am, Pine Cedar (4)

Sponsored by the American Folklore Society and the American Swedish Institute

Chair: Scott Pollock (American Swedish Institute)  
Bart Buch (In The Heart Of The Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre)  
Ingrid Nyholm Lange (American Swedish Institute)  
Mai Vang (Hmong Museum)

*In an age of audience-focused institutions, museums, libraries and cultural centers are called upon to be more than simply relevant to the communities we serve—we're asked to be, essentially, more essential. This panel attempts to identify "community engagement" strategies that have worked, the inert challenges of becoming "essential," and ways of becoming a community cultural anchor for our neighbors. The panel consists of representatives from (1) the American Swedish Institute, a vibrant arts and cultural center in Minneapolis that has gone through a major organizational transformation in the past 5 years, serving new audiences and pursuing an intercultural agenda; (2) the Hmong Museum, an organization with a collective desire to establish a Hmong Museum in Saint Paul-Minneapolis, Minnesota, a place with Hmong-owned businesses, impressive political movements, growing grassroots and arts scene to capture and preserve the ongoing strides of the Hmong community; and (3) In The Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, an iconic grassroots arts organization that has brought people together for the common good through the power of puppet and mask performance for more than three decades. This forum ends early, as the conversation will continue over coffee or tea and pastries at three locations that are directly engaged in these issues, on the "Community Cultural Anchors: A Neighborhood Foodways Tour," departing at 9:45; preregistration is required for the tour, though the panel is open to all.*

## Repression and Resistance (07-05)

8:00 am–10:00 am, Elk Lake (4)

8:30 am Narratives of Past and Present Military Presence beyond Community (Elo-Hanna Seljamaa, Univ. of Tartu)

9:00 am Following a "Sticky" Category in the Folklore Archive: The Emergence, Formation, Consolidation, and Agency of the "Traveller"/"Tattare" Category in a Swedish Archival Collection (Charlotte Hyltén-Cavallius, Institute for Language and Folklore)

## Sami Media for Representation, Resistance and Revitalization (08-10)

10:15am–12:15pm, Wayzata Bay (8)

10:15 am Politics, Media, and Stereotypes in Kirste Paltto's Gávdnui Guhkkín Váris (John Prusynski, Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison)

10:45 am Engaging Commercial Music as a Means of Advancing a Sámi Agenda (Thomas A. DuBois, Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison)

11:15 am Revitalizing Media? Language and Self-Representation in Participatory Media (Coppélie Cocq, Umeå University)

11:45 am The Net and the Knitting of a Decolonizing Web (Moa Sandström, Umeå University)

*The indigenous Sámi community of Finland, Norway, and Sweden combine a longstanding commitment to various aspects of traditional Sámi life and an active, innovative embrace of various modern media, including written literature, commercial music, and a host of internet platforms and products. Often, the work of maintaining or extending aspects of Sámi tradition go hand in hand with such modern media, which become tools both for messages directed at or to a Sámi community and toward the surrounding majority cultures and policy makers. This panel looks at the dynamic ways Sámi have used media since the 1980s.*

## Re-Seeing Folklore Genres (08-05)

10:15 am–12:15 pm, Elk Lake (4)

10:15 am Making the Case for the Seal Wife: A Look at the Tale Type Indices (Samantha Crain, Univ. of Minnesota)

11:15 am Memorates, Memes, Gossip, and Ballads: Narrating a Local Criminal's Escapades (Hilary-Joy V. Virtanen, Finlandia University)

## Public and Applied Folklore II (08-09)

10:15 am–12:15 pm, Spring Park (4)

10:45 am Inspiration or Appropriation: Museum Licensing Programs (Carrie Hertz, Museum of International Folk Art)

11:15 am Heritagelore: Museums and the Manner in which Heritage Might Be Understood in a Trialectic Framework of Place, Materiality, and Mobility (Lizette Gradén & Tom O'Dell, Lund University)

## Crafting Transitions: Creating Community through Refugee Arts Groups (09-13)

2:00–4:00 pm, Lake Nokomis (8)

Chair: Sallie Anna Steiner (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

Amber Dodge (independent)

Steven Hatcher (Idaho Commission on the Arts)

Lynne Williamson (Connecticut Historical Society)

*In cities and towns throughout the US and around the world, resettled refugees and immigrants come together at craft groups where they continue their own traditions, learn new material forms from others, practice the dominant language of their new country, and forge social connections. Our forum will feature four folklorists who have worked with groups like these in Idaho, Connecticut, Florida, and Norway discussing their experiences, with particular mind to the current political and social discourse surrounding immigrant issues. Additionally, the forum will feature a demonstration by a Somali basketmaker who has been involved with community craft groups.*

## 3. Individual Presentations of Interest

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Thursday, October 19, 2017

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8:30 am “Birgitta’s Heart Is a Pot of Delicious Food”: A Vision of Balancing the Spirit and the World (Judith Lanzendorfer, Univ. of Findlay)

Lafayette Bay (8): 8:00 am–10:00 am Medieval Women: Strength and Struggle in Medieval Women’s Faith Journey Narratives (01-14)

9:30 am *Costume and Continuity in an Aging Baltic Diaspora Community* (Mathilde Lind, Indiana University)

*Birch/Maple (4): 8:00 am–10:00 am Folklore and Aging: The Expressive Lives of Older Adults, Part I (01-07)*

10:15 am *A Woman's Weapon: Poison and Witchcraft in Medieval Scandinavian Folklore* (Amber J. Rose, Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison)

*Lafayette Bay (8): 10:15 am–12:15 pm Medieval Women: Foodways and Food Fears (02-14)*

10:45 am *The Storyteller From, In, and Of the Community: The Different Profiles of Carl Bergkvist* (Alf Arvidsson, Umeå University)

*Lake Calhoun (8): 10:15 am–12:15 pm Reconstructing "Past" and "Local" (02-12)*

Friday, October 20, 2017

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8:30 am *Migration, Folk Traditions, and Contemporary Sweden* (Barbro Klein, Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study)

*Excelsior Bay (8): 8:00–10:00 am Refugees, Migration and Immigration (04-11)*

8:30 am *Oral Poetry, Authority, and Religious Change: Mythic Discourse in Re-Creating Communities* (Frog, Univ. of Helsinki)

*Gray's Bay (8): 8:00–10:00 am Worship, Belief, and the Sacred (04-15)*

8:30 am *Neo-Lamenters and Traditional Karelian Lament: Why Does Anyone Need Lamenting?* (Elia Stepanova, Univ. of Helsinki)

*Birch/Maple (4): 8:00–10:00am Constructions of the Local*

3:00 pm *Reclaiming the Pagan Past: The Neo-Pagan Revival of the Æcerbot and Early Medieval Charms* (Gregory Vaillancourt, The Ohio State University)

*Gray's Bay (8): 2:00–4:00 pm Religion and Belief in Shifting Contexts (06-15)*

Saturday, October 21, 2017

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9:45 am “Coffee Was Good”: Coffee Songs and Swedish Modernities  
(Sverker Hyltén-Cavallius, Swedish Performing Arts Agency)

*Gray’s Bay (8): 8:00–10:00 am Songs and Struggles (07-15)*

2:30 pm Walter Anderson’s Law of Self Correction? “The Princess on the Glass Mountain” in  
Latvian Literary and Film Tradition (Guntis Šmidchens, Univ. of Washington)

*Pine Cedar (4): 2:00–4:00 pm Reiterations of Folklore/The Persistence of Folklore (09-06)*

2:30 pm Joking about (the Fear of) Joking (Anastasiya Astapova, Univ. of Tartu)

*Wayzata Bay (8): 2:00–4:00 pm Elliott Oring on Humor: Considerations, Applications,  
Interrogations (09-10)*

3:00 pm Fairy Tale Branding: Reawakening the “Sleeping Beauties of Haute Couture  
(Johanna Zanon, Univ. of Oslo)

*Lake Harriet (8): 2:00–4:00pm The Currents of Capitalism (09-16)*



## 4. Schedule

	Wednesday, October 18, 2017	Thursday, October 19, 2017
8:00 am		<b>Vernacular Religion on the Move: Routes and Roots of Religious Life In and Out of Norway</b> (8–10 am) “Birgitta’s Heart,” J. Lanzendorfer (8:30)
9:00 am		<i>Costume and Continuity</i> , M. Lind (9:30)
10:00 am		<i>Woman’s Weapon</i> , A. Rose (10:15) <i>Carl Bergkvist</i> , A. Arvidsson (10:45)
12:00 am	Tour: Markets and Communities (10–2:30)	
1:00 pm		Nordic-Baltic Business Meeting (12:45–1:45)
2:00 pm		
4:00 pm		
5:00 pm	Opening Ceremony	N-B Section Reception w/ Live Music by Finn H (5:15–7:15)
6:00 pm		

	Friday, October 20, 2017	Saturday, October 21, 2017
8:00 am	<b>Lumberjack Songs and Songcatchers in the Upper Midwest</b> (8–10 am) <b>Fake News, Part III: Figures of Division in European Politics</b> (8-10 am)	<b>Museums and Cultural Centers Community (Dis)Engagement and Essentially Becoming Essential</b> (8–9:30)
8:30 am	Contemporary Sweden, B. Klein (8:30) Mythic Discourse, Frog (8:30) Karelian Lament, E. Stepanova (8:30)	<b>Repression and Resistance</b> (8–10 am)
9:00 am		Tour: Community Cultural Anchors: Neighborhood Foodways (9:30–12)      Coffee Songs, S. Hyltén-Cavallius (9:45)
10:00 am		<b>Sami Media for Representation, Resistance and Revitalization</b> (10:15–12:15) <b>Re-Seeing Folklore Genres</b> (10:15–12:15) <b>Public and Applied Folklore II</b> (10:15–12:15)
12:00 am		
2:00 pm	<b>Music, Identity, and the Nordic-American Experience</b> (2–4 pm)	<b>Crafting Transitions: Creating Community through Refugee Arts Groups</b> (2–4 pm)
2:30 pm		Princess on the Glass Mountain, G. Šmidchens (2:30 pm) Joking, A. Astapova (2:30)
3:00 pm	Pagan Charms, G. Vaillancourt (3:00)	Fairy Tale Branding, J. Zanon (3:00)