

# 4<sup>th</sup> Nordic Conference for Eighteenth-Century Studies

## THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY AND THE NORTH

**Turku 20–22 August 2026**

Arken, Åbo Akademi

Organizers:

The Finnish Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

Åbo Akademi University

Supported by:



NIILO HELANDERIN  
SÄÄTIÖ



Federation of Finnish  
Learned Societies

### THURSDAY 20 AUGUST

**10.00** Registration opens (Arken main lobby)

**11.00–11.30** Opening of conference (aud. Armfelt A102)

**11.30–13.00** Parallel sessions 1A

**13.00–14.15** Lunch at Café Arken

**14.15–15.25** Keynote: Associate Professor Ere Nokkala, University of Jyväskylä (aud. Armfelt A102)

**15.30–17.00** Parallel sessions 1B

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**18.30–19.30** Walking tour of Turku old town (cathedral, university quarter)

### FRIDAY 21 AUGUST

**9.30–11.00** Parallel sessions 2A

**11.00–11.30** Coffee/tea and light snacks (Arken main lobby)

**11.30–12.45** Keynote: Associate Professor Alfred Sjödin, Karlstad University (aud. Armfelt A102)

**12.45–14.00** Lunch at Café Arken (with early career networking opportunity)

**14.00–15.30** Parallel sessions 2B

**15.30–16.00** Coffee/tea and light snacks (Arken main lobby)

**16.00–17.30** Parallel sessions 2C

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**19.00** Conference dinner at Restaurant Göran (Linnankatu 72)

### SATURDAY 22 AUGUST

**9.30–11.00** Parallel sessions 3A

**11.00–11.30** Coffee/tea and light snacks (Arken main lobby)

**11.30–12.45** Keynote: Professor Sabrina Ebbersmeyer, University of Copenhagen (aud. Armfelt A102)

**12.45–13.15** Conference Wrap-Up by the Organizers (aud. Armfelt A102)

**13.30–14.30** Lunch at Brunndeli/Ars Nova & Aboa Vetus (Itäinen Rantakatu 4–6)

## **THURSDAY 20 AUGUST**

**10.00** Registration opens, coffee and tea available (Arken main lobby)

**11.00–11.30** Opening of conference by the organizers (aud. Armfelt A102)

**11.30–13.00** Parallel sessions 1A

<b>Panel 1A.1</b> Disability History and the Long Eighteenth Century: Views from the North	
aud. Saussure M128	<i>Chair: Saara-Maija Kontturi</i>
Catherine Beck: Fluctuating impairment in Northern European maritime welfare c. 1714-1810 Daniel Blackie: Collective (auto)biography, disability and the Industrial Revolution, c. 1750–1850. Riikka Miettinen: Experiences of cognitive and intellectual disabilities in Swedish and Finnish local environments, c. 1670–1770	
<b>Panel 1A.2</b> Visions of Reform	
aud. Goethe L104	<i>Chair: Sophie Holm</i>
Vincent Roy-Di Piazza: “Wealth in heaven”: the political economy of Emanuel Swedenborg (1688–1772) Laura Tarkka: “To cure our sick society”: J. F. Kryger on improvement and the Swedish national character Margrét Gunnarsdóttir: Iceland as a free trade island. A grand project which failed	
<b>Panel 1A.3</b> Art and Drama as Communication	
aud. Kramer M220	<i>Chair: Katariina Lehto</i>
Hanna Bendz: John Valentine Haidt and the Moravian art of western Sweden Andreas Tranvik: Dramatik som eklekticism. Naturrätt, poetisk rättvisa och konsten att moralisera Lotta Nylund: Det nordiska och det nationella i bildkonsten kring sekelskiftet 1800 betraktat genom bildkonstnären Alexander Lauréus	
<b>Panel 1A.4</b> Mapping and Describing the Natural World	
aud. Radiatorn E101	<i>Chair: Kajsa Varjonen</i>
Heidi Pitkänen: Striving for precision – 18th century navigation textbooks in Sweden and transnational circulation of knowledge Oili Pulkkinen: Sami Land and River Torne in Eighteenth-Century British Geography Tim Berndtsson: ”En vacker och odlad slätt”. Föränderliga föreställningar om landskapets uppodling i Carl Magnus Robsahm’s Dagbok under resor i Västerbotten och lapplanden, 1797–1800	

**13.00–14.15** Lunch at Café Arken

**14.15–15.25** Keynote (aud. Armfelt A102)

Associate Professor Ere Nokkala, University of Jyväskylä: *Reframing the North: The Political Economy of Improvement in Eighteenth-Century Northern Europe*

**15.30–17.00** Parallel sessions 1B

<b>Panel 1B.5</b> Panel presenting the volume: Managing Melancholy in the 18th century Nordic Countries	
aud. Kramer M220	<i>Chair: Catherine Beck</i>
Riikka Miettinen Benjamin Brandt Christiansen Sigrid Nielsby Christensen Tine R. Reeh	
<b>Panel 1B.6</b> Debating Animals and Plants	
aud. Goethe L104	<i>Chair: Ella Viitaniemi</i>
Andreas Hellerstedt: Är vi skyldiga djuren några plikter? Diskussioner om djur inom naturrätten i Uppsala och Åbo och dess bakgrund i Tyskland, ca 1710–1760 Nike Stolpe Wikström: Becoming with Animals: Sensibility and More-than-Human Knowledge in Eighteenth-Century Sweden Ina Lindblom: “The oak hatred debate” – Conflicts over the growth of oak trees in late 18th- and early 19th-century Sweden	
<b>Panel 1B.7</b> Making and Breaking the Law	
aud. Radiatorn E101	<i>Chair: Kajsa Varjonen</i>
Elisabeth Björkenheim Andersen: Connected through Separation – Nordic Separatists in Northern Europe Jørgen Mührmann-Lund: The protocols of deliberations of the Supreme Court in Copenhagen 1661–1850 Alexander Johansson: Att förklara det onda i världen: demonologiskt tänkande i tidigmoderna Sverige	
<b>Panel 1B.8</b> Nordic Women Addressing the Public: Religion, Newspapers, Theatre	
aud. Saussure M128	<i>Chair: Laura Tarkka</i>
Martin Fog Arndal: New Pathways to Equality: Women’s Paratexts in the Early Modern North Martina Reuter: “detta exempel torde upmuntra flera af Könet i vårt Land”: Brita Sidonia Gadd and Catharina Charlotta Swedenmarck in Tidningar Utgifne Af et Sällskap i Åbo Maria Mårsell: An Intellectual Going Public: Anna Maria Lenngren Announces Her Authorship	

**18.30–19.30** Walking tour of Turku old town (cathedral, university quarter)

## **FRIDAY 21 AUGUST**

### **9.30–11.00 Parallel sessions 2A**

<b>Panel 2A.1</b> The Rise of Science and Fiction during the Enlightenment	
aud. Saussure M128	<i>Chair: Laura Tarkka</i>
Simona Zetterberg-Nielsen: The Rise of Scientific Fiction Maria Nørby Pedersen: Fictional Voices and Civil Science in Danish Periodicals Samuli Björninen: Facts about Finland and Denmark: The Shifting Rhetoric of Factuality in Early Chorographical Writings and Observations of the Royal Society of London Valdemar Nielsen Pold: Imaginary or Fictive? Fictionality in the Early Issues of the Journal of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letter	
<b>Panel 2A.2</b> Poetry and Music in the Early Modern North	
aud. Goethe L104	<i>Chair: Johanna Ilmakunnas</i>
Brage Egil Herlofsen: Tendencies in Norwegian wedding poetry 1586–1758 Annabella Skagen: Iscenesettelse av samer i 1700-tallets musikkteater Satyanita Emma Sohlgren: Cultural Transfer through Opera Arias: Material culture and musical practices in mid-eighteenth-century Sweden	
<b>Panel 2A.3</b> Communicating Status and Identities	
aud. Kramer M220	<i>Chair: Lotta Nylund</i>
Ager Wienberg: Meriter och minnespraktiker: ett erfarenhetskomplex och dess förändringar i 1700-talets Östersjöområde Elisa Kujansuu: Material Culture and the Social Status of the Gentry in the Late Eighteenth Century Hämeenlinna Anni Shepherd: Fashion in the Far North: exploring 18th century fashions in a Finnish context	

**11.00–11.30** Coffee/tea and light snacks (Arken main lobby)

**11.30–12.45** Keynote (aud. Armfelt A102)

Associate Professor Alfred Sjödin, Karlstad University: *"O sälla Norra Wärlde!": geografi och poetiskt världsskapande från Dahlstierna till Oxenstierna*

**12.45–14.00** Lunch at Café Arken (with early career networking opportunity)

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## 14.00–15.30 Parallel sessions 2B

<b>Panel 2B.4</b> 1700-talets opera i Norden och världen 1: Repertoaren som kulturmöten	
aud. Saussure M128	<i>Chair: Johanna Ilmakunnas</i>
Marie-Christine Skuncke: 1700-talet: "En nordisk teaterhistoria i europeiskt perspektiv?" / "A Nordic History of 18th Century Theatre in European Perspective"	
Mikko Saira: Den musikdramatiska repertoaren i Åbo 1790–1840: En ny bild av ett förflutet kulturliv	
Charlotta Wolff: Diplomaten som kulturell medlare mellan operascenerna: Gustav Philip Creutz och samarbetet mellan Grétry och Marmontel, ca 1767–1775	
<b>Panel 2B.5</b> Structuring of Knowledge at Nordic Universities	
aud. Goethe L104	<i>Chair: Heidi Pitkänen</i>
Visa Helenius: Wolffianism in The Royal Academy of Turku	
Liisa Kunnas: Finnish, Nordic, European, and global materiality: The collections of the Academy of Turku in 1750–1827	
Saara-Maija Kontturi: Medical Electricity and the Exchange of Knowledge in Sweden and Abroad, c. 1750-1800	
<b>Panel 2B.6</b> Life in the Margins	
aud. Radiatorn E101	<i>Chair: Emil Kaukonen</i>
Anders D. Birkemose: Runaway-advertisements in a Nordic perspective	
Unnur Helga Vífilsdóttir: Tracing Lives at the Margins: Illegitimacy, Pauperism, and the Lived Experience of Poor Children in Iceland	
Mariaana Korpela: Återanvändning av handlingar för att bygga upp individens livshistoria i 1700- och 1800-talens sekelskifte	
<b>Panel 2B.7</b> Writing Histories of the North. Historiography in Eighteenth Century Denmark-Norway	
aud. Kramer M220	<i>Chair: Anni Shepherd</i>
Håkon Evju: Barbarism and Religion in the Ancient North. Paul-Henri Mallet's histories of pagan Scandinavia	
Anne Eriksen: Giants: From monsters to ancestors. Gerhard Schøning's theories about Norway's first inhabitants	
Thomas E. Daltveit Slettebø: "Consider what misery and strife was here in the north, before God sent the word of life here to us." The North as a place of paganism and violence in the works of the Norwegian radical Pietist and carpenter Johan Madsen (1735–1799)	

## 15.30–16.00 Coffee/tea and light snacks (Arken main lobby)

## 16.00–17.30 Parallel sessions 2C

<b>Panel 2C.8</b> 1700-talets opera i Norden och världen 2: Mobilitet, identitet, tradition	
aud. Saussure M128	<i>Chair: Charlotta Wolff</i>
Martin Wåhlberg: Fransk opera-comique i Bergen under Ibsens läroår Johanna Ilmakunnas: Scenkonstnärer och operaföreställningens materialitet i 1700-talets Sverige Topi Artukka: Carl Gustav Bonuvier and the birth of modern theatre and opera house in early 19th century Finland	
<b>Panel 2C.9</b> Copenhagen Complains	
aud. Goethe L104	<i>Chair: Ella Viitaniemi</i>
Peter Wessel Hansen: Scriptural Practice and Security Measure Ulrik Langen: Intergenerational Conflict and Civic Governance Benjamin Brandt Christiansen: Rental Complaints and the Limits of Reasonable Conduct	
<b>Panel 2C.10</b> Reading Individuals through Early Modern Sources	
aud. Radiatorn E101	<i>Chair: Kajsa Varjonen</i>
Kaisa Kyläkoski: Mono- and Multilingual Individuals in Gustavian-Era Finland Santeri Aikio: Noncommissioned Officers at the End of the Swedish Era in Finland Vigdis Berland Øystese: From Clerical Households to Lay Religious Communities: Women's Writing in Norway across the Long Eighteenth Century	

**19.00** Conference dinner at Restaurant Göran (Linnankatu 72)

## **SATURDAY 22 AUGUST**

### **9.30–11.00 Parallel sessions 3A**

<b>Panel 3A.1</b> On Nordic Lutheran Religion and Welfare for Children, Caribbeans and Criminals in the 18th Century	
aud. Saussure M128	<i>Chair: Ralf Hemmingsen</i>
Sigrid Nielsby Christensen: Nordic Hallensian Welfare Institutions – a Challenge for the National Welfare Narratives?	
Benedikte Emilie T. Steensgaard: Welfare for Body and Soul? Nordic Lutheran Religion in the Caribbean	
Tine R. Reeh: Between Moral Warfare and Criminal Welfare. Nordic Lutheran Considerations on Pastoral Authority and Care for Lawbreakers	
<b>Panel 3A.2</b> Perspectives on Neighbouring Regions	
aud. Radiatorn E101	<i>Chair: Mikko Saira</i>
Susann Holmberg: Imagining Norway: British Readings of Pontoppidan's Natural History in the Mid-Eighteenth Century	
Rebecca Gigli: Portraying the Enemy: Ideological Metanarratives and Representations of Sweden in Eighteenth-Century Russia	
Alexandru Lefter: Island – det samma och det andra. En svensk bild av Island från slutet av 1700-talet	
<b>Panel 3A.3</b> Northern Treasure – Everyday Forest Use in the 18th and 19th Century	
aud. Goethe L104	<i>Chair: Sofia Gustafsson</i>
Hilja Solala: From Tree Leaves to Lichen – Native Cattle, Forest, and Winter Fodder in 18th- and 19th-Century Finland	
Petri Talvitie: Conflicts related to forest use through the lens of slash-and-burn agriculture	
Ella Viitaniemi: The Proper Use of the Northern Treasure	

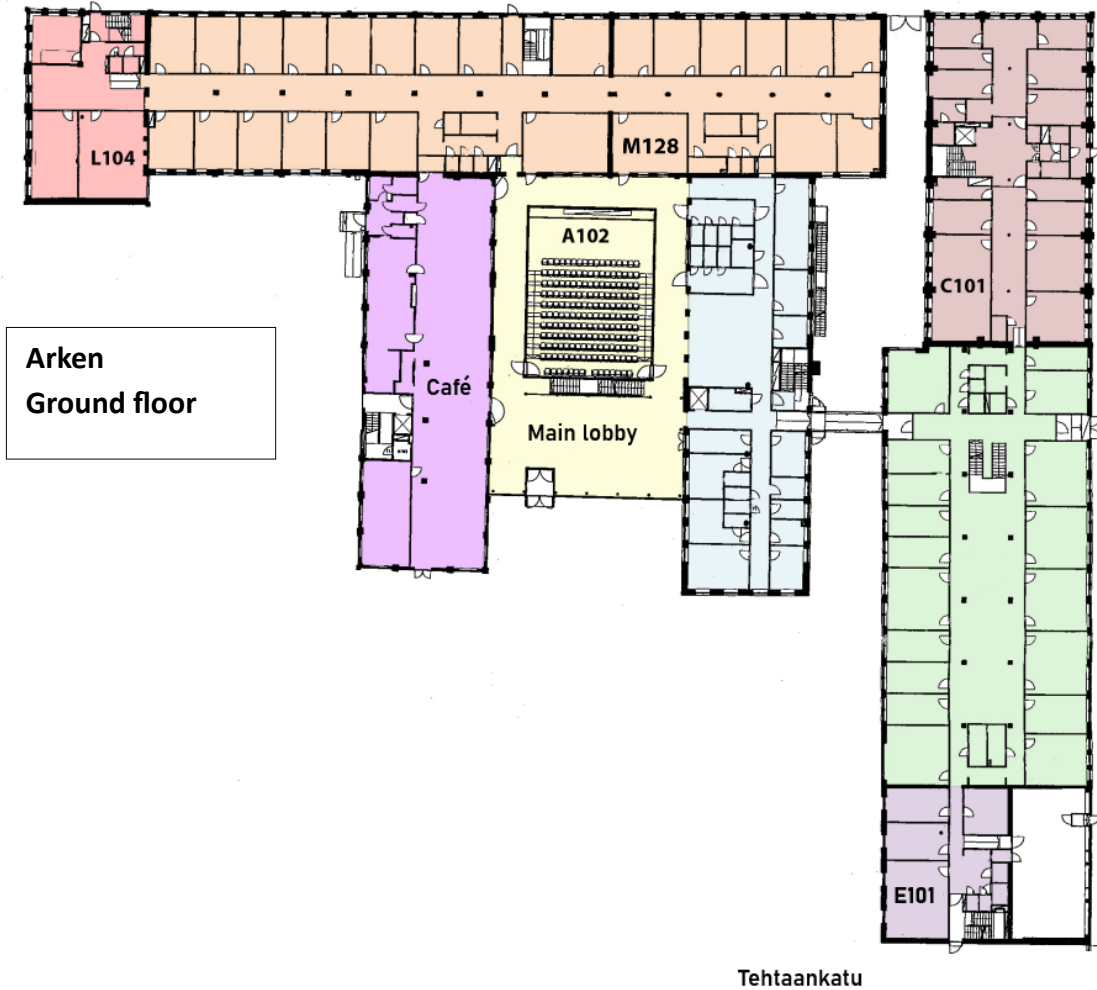
**11.00–11.30** Coffee/tea and light snacks (Arken main lobby)

**11.30–12.45** Keynote (aud. Armfelt A102)

Professor Sabrina Ebbersmeyer, University of Copenhagen: *'Splendor fæminei sexus', 'La Minerve de l'Europe' or 'en anden Aspasia': Nordic Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period and Their European Reception*

**12.45–13.15** Conference Wrap-Up by the Organizers (aud. Armfelt A102)

**13.30–14.30** Lunch at Brunndeli/Ars Nova & Aboa Vetus (Itäinen Rantakatu 4–6)



Arken  
Ground floor

Tehtaankatu

Piispankatu



Arken  
First floor