

4th 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:



NIILLO HELANDERIN
SÄÄTIÖ

LETTERSTEDTSKA FÖRENINGEN

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

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

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

Panel 1A.1 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	
Panel 1A.2 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 Tim Berndtsson: “A beautiful and cultivated field”. Ideas about the cultivation of the landscape in Carl Magnus Robsahm’s travel Journals in Lapponia, 1797–1800	
Panel 1A.3 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	
Panel 1A.4 Mapping and Describing the Natural World Panel cancelled	
aud. Radiatorn E101	<i>Chair: Kajsa Varjonen</i>
Heidi Pitkänen: Striving for precision – 18th century navigation textbooks in Sweden and transnational circulation of knowledge cancelled! Oili Pulkkinen: Sami Land and River Torne in Eighteenth-Century British Geography cancelled! Tim Berndtsson: “En vacker och odlad slätt”. Föränderliga föreställningar om landskapets uppodling i Carl Magnus Robsahm’s Dagbok under resor i Västerbotten och lappmarken, 1797–1800 Paper moved to panel 1A.2 “Visions of Reform”	

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

Panel 1B.5 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	
Panel 1B.6 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	
Panel 1B.7 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	

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

FRIDAY 21 AUGUST

9.30–11.00 Parallel sessions 2A

Panel 2A.1 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	
Panel 2A.2 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	
Panel 2A.3 Communicating Status and Identities	
aud. Kramer M220	<i>Chair: Lotta Nylund</i>
Asger 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	
Panel 2A.11 Nordic Women Addressing the Public: Religion, Newspapers, Theatre	
aud. Saussure M128	<i>Chair: Sabrina Ebbersmeyer</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 Mårzell: An Intellectual Going Public: Anna Maria Lenngren Announces Her Authorship	

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 Värld!": geografi och poetiskt världsskapande från Dahlstierna till Oxenstierna*

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

14.00–15.30 Parallel sessions 2B

Panel 2B.4 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	
Panel 2B.5 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	
Panel 2B.6 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	
Panel 2B.7 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

Panel 2C.8 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	
Panel 2C.9 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	
Panel 2C.10 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

Panel 3A.1 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	
Panel 3A.2 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	
Panel 3A.3 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 Brundeli/Ars Nova & Aboa Vetus (Itäinen Rantakatu 4–6)

