



9th Nordic Trans Studies Conference Program

Date: 8th and 9th of December, 2025

Place: Örebro university, Örebro, Sweden

Time	Monday 8 th	Place & Notes
9:30	Registration and coffee + sandwich	In front of BIO , F-house
10:00	Welcome	BIO
10:15-12:00	Keynote Mons Bissenbakker: <i>The princess who became a man. ROGD-myths and trans counter-myths.</i>	BIO
12:00-13:00	Lunch	Faculty club (Entré house)
13:15-15:15	Parallel working groups monday	
	Trans* organizing-trajectories, Discussions, Strategies	P103 Open to non-participating audiences
	Transecological Relations: The Animal-Animal, More-Than-Animal, Human Animal, More-Than-Human and the Even-More-Than-That.	P 243 Open to non-participating audiences
	Creative Methods in Trans Studies	P236 Open to non-participating audiences
	Minority Stress and Minority Joy Project, Research Group Meeting	P262 Open to non-participating audiences
10:15-15	Resting and conspiring	P242
15:30-15:45	Coffee + cake	Faculty club
15.45-17:00	Trans studies in a Nordic context network meetings, all welcome	Faculty club
18:00	Dinner at GRO GRO Örebro Välkommen till GRO	

Time	Tuesday 9 th	Place & Notes
9.15-11.15	Keynote Elias Wakeem + Ritni Ráste Pieski	Lecture hall F
11.15-11.30	Coffee	Faculty club
11.30-12.00	Poster session	Faculty club
12.00-13.00	Lunch	Faculty club
13.15-15.15	Parallel working groups/resting	
	Trans Autoethnographies	P 242 Not open
	Creative Writing Workshop	P104 Open to walk-in participants
	The Politics of Trans Visibility	P261 Open to non-participating audiences
	Ageing	P267 Open to non-participating audiences
	Trans Care	P114 Open to non-participating audiences
9:15-15	Resting & conspiring	P234
15.30-16.30	Coffee + snacks and goodbye	Faculty club

The program is subject to change.

General information:

We recommend downloading the digital map of the campus: [Kartor över våra campus - Örebro universitet](#)

Behind the campus is a nice forest. Here you can find suggestions for walks: [Karta för Walk & Talk promenadslingor](#)

Quiet rooms are available in the Forum building (F2271, second floor) and Prisma building (F205, second floor).

Resting rooms with a possibility to lie down are for example in the Forum building (F2273, second floor), Prisma building (P1132, first floor). Search the map for “vilorum” to find more options.

Keynotes

Monday, Dec 8th, 10:15-12:00

The princess who became a man. ROGD-myths and trans counter-myths.

Mons Bissenbakker (he/him/his) is an Associate Professor at the University of Copenhagen. As the head of the Center for Gender, Sexuality & Difference, he researches and teaches trans and queer theory, as well as affect studies and discourse analysis. He is currently working on a project on transgender identities and gender transitions in Danish literary fiction and prose from the Middle Ages to 2030.

<https://researchprofiles.ku.dk/da/persons/mons-bissenbakker>

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6516-2137>

To live as trans is to inhabit a mythological existence, as transness often becomes the object of a wide array of contradictory yet potent cultural fantasies. Trans identities are simultaneously construed as ridiculous yet threatening, marginal yet powerful, artificial yet all too real. In the current political climate, however, confronting myth with truth can seem futile. As every literary scholar knows, there is no true escape from mythology. Instead, constructing counter-mythologies may be vital to imagining trans activism and care.

Taking my point of departure in the repeatedly debunked yet nonetheless politically and medically influential hypothesis of Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria (ROGD), as proposed by Littman (2018), I identify this particular myth as resting on three powerful assumptions: trans as a newly fabricated ‘invention’; trans as a maladaptive coping mechanism; and good parenting as synonymous with protecting one’s child from transness. Looking to literature as a reservoir for creating trans counter-mythology I propose the Danish folktale *The princess who became a man* – collected by Danish folklorist Edvald Tang Christensen in 1880 – as a trans resource that offers alternative understandings an imagery of trans history, trans coping, and trans care.

I approach this folktale through a simultaneously “resonant” and “recognizing” trans reading strategy (Eastwood 2014) as well as on queer “reparative reading” (Sedgwick 2003), affect-theoretical approaches (Cvetkovich 2003; Ahmed 2007), and psychoanalytic object relations theory (Winnicott 1965). Examining the proposed ‘causes’ of transness as imagined by the ROGD hypothesis – specifically sexual violence and a presumed lack of emotional coping capacity – I explore what might be gained by staying with such imagery rather than dismissing it outright. May we use *The princess who became a man* as a resource for imagining transness as a reasonable reaction to cis-violence? In what ways could the tale offer alternative ideals for parenthood for trans children? And what might the tale teach us about trans healing and allyship?

(TW: graphic violence, including sexualised violence mentioned in the talk).

Working group overview

Find descriptions and presenters below

Monday 8th

Trans* organizing-trajectories, discussions, strategies

Transecologies: nature, animals and more-than-animal perspectives on the environment

Creative research methods in trans studies

Minority Stress and Minority Joy Project, Research Group Meeting

Tuesday 9th

Trans autoethnographies

Creative writing workshop for researchers and students

The politics of trans visibility

Trans Care

Ageing

**Note that the working groups run as parallel sessions, that is, you will be able to attend one working group each day.*

Working groups Monday

Trans* organizing-trajectories, discussions, strategies (Open group)

Trans organising in the Nordic context has seen many distinct changes within the last 10-15 years. While some long-term networks persist, new initiatives continuously arise, and we can see a blend of stable as well as more shifting or temporary platforms for meeting and organising. The variety of lived experiences among trans people has also led to initiatives focusing on the specific needs of, for example, newly migrated people. Furthermore, while we have seen changes to the legal frameworks that govern the lives and bodies of trans adults, there has also been heightened negative public attention on gender nonconforming youth.

With this session, we want to explore some of the trajectories of these changes. While much attention is paid to the rapid decline in state and societal support in countries such as the US, UK and Hungary, what is the situation in the Nordic context? What are the local issues within the global landscape of anti-trans mobilizing? Which roles do trans joy and trans care play? What discussions and approaches do we or should we engage with as trans organisers or communities? Where are the fault lines and contentions? And what are our theoretical reference points for these conversations?

Presenters

- Liv Izgi, Södertörn University, Sweden: *Shadowed Agenda Setting and the Politics of Distortion: TERF Reactions to the "Saturday People" Controversy in Turkey*
- Sözen Baştürk, Roskilde University, Denmark: *Radical, transformative potential of coalition-building toward trans*feminism*
- Nico Miskow Friberg, University of Stavanger, Norway: *"Playing the political game" – Trans coalitions' sceptical (dis)engagements with the state*
- Irina Schmitt, Lund University, Sweden: *Understanding changes and trajectories in trans organizing in Sweden since 2010*

Facilitators

Nico Miskow Friberg (they/them) is a Mad, queer, trans coalition organiser and PhD candidate at Centre for Gender Studies, University of Stavanger. Nico's work explores t4t organising, coalition-building, and mundane trans care in Denmark, and is anchored in collective knowledge creation that contributes to trans liveability and collective trans liberation.

Luca Tainio (he/him) is a Doctoral Researcher at the University of Helsinki in Finland, and an Adjunct Lecturer at Karlstad University in Sweden. His research focuses on questions of transmasculinity and embodiment, as well as knowledge-production. Luca also works as the Editorial Secretary for NORMA: International Journal for Masculinity Studies.

Irina Schmitt (irina) teaches and researches in Gender Studies at Lund University, Sweden. Irina's research focuses on trans- and queer-feminist educational research with a focus on

organizations where knowledge is produced and the national is inscribed, such as schools and colleges. Given current anti-trans politics, Irina hopes to explore trajectories in trans organizing over the last decades.

The working group is open to non-participating audiences.

Transecologies: nature, animals and more-than-animal perspectives on the environment (Open group)

With this workshop, we wish to create a space for discussion of transecologies and trananimalities in the Nordic context. Transecology and trananimalities draw from trans and non-binary experiences to challenge, transform, create subversive ways of envisioning ecological worlds, our relationships to and our interdependencies with the more-than-human, more-than-animal and the non-human.

For this workshop we would like to focus on how trans and non-binary perspectives can challenge colonialist, ableist, anthropocentric and cissexist views of nature. Which vulnerabilities, alliances, intimacies, might they suggest? Which political, ethical, imaginary alternatives might they create? Through which concepts, from which knowledges, for which actions? Are our concepts still anthropocentric and colonialist, for instance, even if intended to deconstruct these paradigms (e.g. “non-human animals” / “more-than-human world”)? What alternatives to these terminologies can we create? Contributions from all disciplines, beyond and across them, on these topics and aside from those, are warmly welcome.

Presenters

- Wibke Straube & Ely/iott Mermans: *Transecological Relations: The Animal-Animal, More-Than-Animal, Human Animal, More-Than-Human and the Even-More-Than-That*
- Jasper J. Verlinden: *Carried in the beaks of birds, dropped elsewhere, far from our roots, we grow’: The Non-Human in Contemporary Trans and Crip of Color Poetry*
- Valerie Sofie Tollhopf: *Historical Materialist Contributions to Trans Ecologies: Trans* New Materialism, Capitalism, and the State*
- Anthony Clair Wagner-Vepsä: *Root babies – growing transecological rootings*

Facilitators

Wibke Straube, they/them (Karlstad University, Sweden): Wibke works with a focus on of trans and queer embodiment, affective methodologies and possibilities to create zones of liveability. They were part of the Kone-funded project “Trans*Creative: Health, Violence, and Environment in Transgender Cultural Production” and are a founding member of the Nordic Network for Trans Studies. Wibke regularly hosts the Trans Research Residencies at the Centre for Gender Studies in Karlstad.

Ely/iott Mermans, he*/they (Helsinki University, Finland): Ely/iott has a background in philosophy, with his research interests lying somewhere at the intersection of environmental ethics, philosophy of science, anticolonial research and trans* ecologies. Ely/iott is currently part of the research project WEIRD – Who’s sustainability? Disability and queer perspectives

for sustainability transformations –, where he is working on the contribution of trans* and queer research and activism to environmental justice, as well as to conservation issues in relation to non-human animal predation.

The working group is open to non-participating audiences.

Trans care (Open group)

In a world that seems to care greatly about trans politics but less so about the actual trans people, what does the concept of care even mean when applied to trans/non-binary bodies and experiences? Should gender-affirming operations be considered healthcare, or does this enable regimes to put restrictions on a kind of intervention that cisgender people can freely access through the paradigm of cosmetic surgery? And if we decide to adopt the healthcare label for strategic reasons, do differing models become unthinkable – models like that of Andrea Long Chu, who argues that “sex change” should be made available based simply on wanting, rather than medicalized conditions like gender identity dysphoria. Can grassroots redistribution of hormones entail a different kind of care than the medical establishment’s prescription of those same hormones to a diagnosed patient? And does the focus on healthcare obscure all the everyday care practices taking place between trans people and our comrades, lovers, allies, families?

Presenters

- Siri Landgren: *Opening Remarks*
- Felix Lene Ihrig: *Stomping on Eggshells - Ruling Emotions in Trans-Sensitive Healthcare*
- Alex Blum: *Trans Practices Against Fascism*
- Luka Holmegaard: *Trans Care (Extra)*
- Annukka Lahti: *Piling of injurious elements: trans people’s experiences of relationship breakups*

Facilitators

Dannie Milve is a PhD student at Södertörn University, studying the roles of pleasure, sex(uality), and digital intimate media in non-binary subjectifications and becomings.

Siri Landgren (she/they) is an artist and writer based in Göteborg, Sweden. Her essays and criticism have been featured in publications like *lambda nordica*, *Paletten*, *Socialpolitik* and *ETC*

The working group is open to non-participating audiences.

Creative Research Methods in Trans Studies (Open group)

How do you use - or would like to use - creative methods in trans studies? How do researcher-artists create amid the sometimes-conflicting requirements of academic research, art, and activism?

Traditionally, academic research reporting is expected to be clear and concise. The reader should easily understand the researcher's interpretations and analyses. In artistic practices, however, we often value ambiguity and the possibility of multiple interpretations.

Furthermore, in activist discourses, simplifying complex information is sometimes needed for the message to be impactful. Trans studies is academic and political. When we employ artistic methods within trans studies, we position ourselves at the intersection of research, art, and politics. How do we navigate these different ways of knowledge production?

After the presentations there will be time for discussion with the non-presenting audience as well.

Presenters

- Milo van der Maaden: *Trans* Pedagogies of Care: Cruising Narratives as Artistic Research Method*
- Leo Valentin Theissing: *Trans Parents' Diaries: Use of Creative Methods in a Mixed-Method PhD Project*

Facilitators

Kaarna Tuomenvirta (they/them) is a doctoral researcher in Gender Studies at the University of Helsinki. They research how trans people experience the gender assessment period in Finnish gender identity clinics. They held creative writing workshops for the participants and used poetic methods in analysing interviews.

Utu-Tuuli Jussila (they/them) is a doctoral researcher in gender studies at the University of Helsinki. They focus on visual representations of non-binary genders and use artistic research methods, mainly collaborative self-portraiture photography.

The working group is open to non-participating audiences.

Working groups Tuesday

Trans autoethnographies (Closed group)

As an interdisciplinary field, Trans Studies has roots in trans organising in/against, and outside academia including feminist and queer theory, the social and medical sciences. Additionally, the field of Trans Studies has a substantial and ongoing tradition of engaging autobiographical work – both historical and current. The importance of positioning oneself in one's research, as well as writing from and through one's own embodied and lived experiences, has been an integral part of much of the scholarly work done within the field of Trans Studies.

Autoethnographic writing and research in general can help us connect individual experiences to the collective, cultural, social and to larger systems of power, and can be a tool for reflecting lived experiences and material effects of structural oppression as well as our complicity in them. It is a way of writing oneself into culture and into realities.

In this work group we want to open up conversations and collective reflections about the multiple ways we use our own embodied experiences, autoethnography, autobiography and in other ways write ourselves into our research and scholarly practices.

- Dana del Carmen, Tallinn University, Estonia
- Sebastian Lönnlöv, Gothenburg University, Sweden
- Iwo Nord, DIS – Study Abroad in Scandinavia, Sweden
- Eha Emilia Oras, Tallinn University, Estonia
- Tais Terletskaia, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- Felix Lene Ihrig

*The working group is **not** open to non-participating audiences.*

Creative writing workshop for researchers and students (Open group)

How can creative writing be combined with academic writing? Who are you as an academic writer? Who would you like to be? We search for answers to these questions in a workshop where the participants take part in creative writing exercises that take inspiration from trans studies texts.

Trans studies and creative writing have a history together, and in the workshop, we will play with some ways of combining the two. We will write, reflect, and discuss. Inspiration for the exercises has been taken from different creative writing courses participated in and held by the facilitator.

Facilitator

Kaarna Tuomenvirta is a doctoral researcher at University of Helsinki. They have held creative writing workshops for trans youth, trans artists, and the participants of their PhD research. They are currently writing an article that is partly in poetic form.

The working group is open to walk-in participants. Not open to non-participating audiences.

The politics of trans visibility (Open group)

Within both activism and research, emancipatory hopes have been attached to the idea of trans visibility. However, visibility can become not only a site of recognition but also a mechanism of regulation – an appeal to dominant norms and institutions that can, under swiftly changing political conditions, revoke previously granted legitimacy or weaponize it against the very individuals it once supported.

As governments and reactionary movements broaden their attacks on gender minorities, trans visibility has become a perilous terrain - visibility can mean surveillance and hostility. For trans studies, and lives, this means new and pressing questions regarding academic freedom and censorship, livability and legal and human rights.

The submissions can think both with and against “paranoid critique” (Sedgwick 1997). From the point of view of “reparative reading” (ibid.), visibility is ambivalent. It can lead to unforeseen effects, whether ‘bad’ or ‘good’. Visibility is multilayered, entailing different potentialities and meanings for the people navigating it. Among other things, it may be counterpublic, fugitive and ephemeral, or networked.

Presenters

- Isak Løberg Jacobsen, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway: *“Hit, men ikke lenger?”: transmasculine pregnancy, transnormativity and Norwegian homotolerance*
- Joa Hiitola, Tampere University, Finland: *Temporal Dissonance in the Gender-Affirming Care for Trans Youth*
- Matti Pihlajamaa, University of Helsinki, Finland: *Protecting or politicizing trans children’s rights? Affective-discursive reading of the 2023 gender recognition reform debates in Finland*
- Sara Barbo, Tallinn University, Estonia: *A Critical Phenomenology of Visibility and Being In-Between in Trans Movement Work*

Facilitator

Valo Vähäpassi holds a PhD in Media Studies. Their PhD project addressed the way affective media practices bring people together around co-articulations of transness and violence. They have published on Christian right, trans activism, user generated reality enforcement, and the intersections of transgender studies and disability studies.

The working group is open to non-participating audiences.

Ageing (Open group)

Older trans people in later life often have specific life course experiences as well as distinct experiences relating to ageing. Applying an age-lens in relation to trans may give new perspectives on community, transitioning, life experiences, trans care, embodiment etcetera.

Presenters in this workshop are from Transsamman's senior project, and researchers who have been working on trans ageing. Initially, everyone will give a shorter introduction in the beginning of their work/experiences followed by a discussion on themes brought up in the introductions. The conversation is then opened up where the audience are invited to join the discussion. The presentations will draw on empirical research drawing from older transpeople's experiences in relation to ageing, community, care, dementia and ageing futures.

They will also draw from experiences from Transsamman's senior project including the work with creating educational material as well as the formation of the senior Network.

Presenters and facilitators

- Linn Storm, MSc in Public Health Epidemiology. Linn has been working within civil society, focusing on LGBTQI issues since 2008. She is currently leading a project at Transsamman (an association for trans people and their families, chosen or otherwise) at promoting health among transgender individuals aged 65 and older and will share insights from this work.
- Anna Siverskog, PhD in Ageing and Later life, Associate Professor at Gender studies, Södertörn University. Her research interests revolve around age, gender, sexuality, power, and the life course with a specific interest in LGBTQ ageing. She has explored queer aging in relation to the life course, eldercare and dementia (see e.g. <https://blogg.sh.se/hbtqochdemens>). Currently, she works in projects exploring relationships and living conditions among lgbtq people 65+, and in a project about tracing queer political histories in Sweden, Croatia and Romania.
- Mara Evans, BA in psychology and PhD/associate professorship in sociology. Mara began her professional career working in grassroots organizing, labor rights, and healthcare reform in the United States, primarily in the conservative southern states. There, she led campaigns to protect workers' rights, strengthen voting rights, and advance improvements in healthcare. Her twenty years of practical experience laid the foundation for her academic and research-oriented work. For nearly five decades, she

has been building bridges between science, politics, and practice in various social and environmental issues — the past twenty-five of those years in Sweden.

- Sofia Smolle, PhD in social work, Mid Sweden University. Sofia's work explores the lived experiences of transgender older adults and examines professional perspectives within the welfare system. Their/her research interests include transgender and queer perspectives, queer ageing, intersectionality, norm-critical approaches, empowerment, and social welfare. They/she is particularly engaged in knowledge enhancing initiatives related to critical and radical social work, as well as LGBTQ+ activism.
- Linn J Sandberg, Associate professor and senior lecturer in Gender studies at the School of Culture and Education, Södertörn University. Her work addresses gender, sexuality, ageing and later life. Current projects include a study on LGBTQ perspectives on dementia care in Sweden with Anna Siverskog, and another study on queer aging futures in Sweden, Estonia and Poland (read more www.iqaf.eu).

The working group is open to non-participating audiences.