PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ASANOR 2015

THE MACHINE IN THE GARDEN:
ENERGY, INDUSTRY, & TECHNOLOGY in
AMERICAN CULTURE

40th ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the
AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF NORWAY

23–25 October 2015
Stavanger, Norway

Friday
11.30 – 12.00 ASANOR Board meeting
October 23
12.00 – 13.00 Registration
13.00 – 13.15 Conference Opening
Arne Rettedals
13.15 – 14.45 Session A (Roving Scholars Panel)
Hus, Ø-120
14.45 – 15.15 Coffee and Registration
University of
15.15 – 16.30 Screening & discussion: TOXI•City
Stavanger (UiS)
16.30 – 17.00 Light refreshments (sandwiches, etc.)
17.00 – 18.30 ASANOR Keynote – David Nye

Saturday
09.00 – 10.00 U.S. Embassy Keynote – Jeffrey R. Di Leo
October 24
10.00 – 10.30 Coffee
Clarion Hotel
10.30 – 12.00 Concurrent Session B1 and B2
Stavanger
12.00 – 13.00 ASANOR General Meeting
13.00 – 14.30 Lunch
14.30 – 16.00 Concurrent Session C1 and C2
16.00 – 16.30 Coffee
16.30 – 17.30 U.S. Embassy Keynote – Stephanie LeMenager
20.00 Banquet at Bølgen & Moi, Norwegian Petroleum Museum

Sunday
09.30 – 11.00 Session D
October 25
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee
Clarion Hotel
11.30 – 13.00 Session E
Stavanger
13.00 – 14.00 Lunch and Closing Remarks
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASANOR 2015

THE MACHINE IN THE GARDEN: ENERGY, INDUSTRY, & TECHNOLOGY in AMERICAN CULTURE

40th ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF NORWAY

23–25 October 2015
Stavanger, Norway

Host
University of Stavanger

Sponsors
Embassy of the United States, Oslo, Norway
Fulbright Foundation Roving Scholars Program

University Sponsors
Faculty of Arts and Education, University of Stavanger
Department of Cultural Studies and Languages, University of Stavanger

Conference Chairs
Jena Habegger-Conti, University of Stavanger
Arne Neset, University of Stavanger
Eric Dean Rasmussen, University of Stavanger
Keynote Addresses and Special Presentations

ASANOR Keynote Address — “Leo Marx, Reconsidered”
David E. Nye, Center for American Studies, University of Southern Denmark

David E. Nye, Professor of American Studies, University of Southern Denmark, is also a by-fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge University. He has been a visiting professor at Notre Dame, Warwick, Leeds, Harvard, MIT, and the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study. His awards include a Danish knighthood (2014), Dansk Magisterforening’s Humanities Research Prize (2015), the Leonardo da Vinci Medal (2005), The Dexter Book Prize (1993), Sally Hacker Prize (2009), and Able Woolman Award (1991). Among more than 200 publications are eight books with MIT Press, most recently America’s Assembly Line (2013).

United States Embassy Keynote Address — “Book Machines”
Jeffrey R. Di Leo, University of Houston–Victoria, Texas, USA

Jeffrey Di Leo is Dean of Arts and Sciences and Professor of English and Philosophy at the University of Houston–Victoria. He is the editor of the influential literary journal the American Book Review and his most recent books are Turning the Page: Book Culture in the Digital Age—Essays, Reflections, Interventions (2014), Corporate Humanities in Higher Education: Moving Beyond the Neoliberal Academy (2014), and Criticism after Critique: Aesthetics, Literature and the Political (2014) with The New Public Intellectual: Politics, Theory, and the Public Sphere and Dead Theory: Derrida, Death, and the Afterlife of Theory forthcoming this fall.

United States Embassy Address — “Cultures of Oil and Water”
Stephanie LeMenager, University of Oregon, USA

Stephanie LeMenager is Barbara and Carlisle Moore Professor of English and Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Oregon. Her publications include the books Living Oil: Petroleum Culture in the American Century, Manifest and Other Destinies: Territorial Fictions of the Nineteenth-Century United States, and (as co-editor) Environmental Criticism for the Twenty-First Century. Her forthcoming books are Weathering: Toward a Sustainable Humanities and the collection Teaching Climate Change in the Humanities with co-editors Stephen Siperstein and Shane Hal. She is a founding editor of Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities.

Screening & Discussion — TOXI•City
Scott Rettberg, University of Bergen

TOXI•City is a panoramic, recombinatory film (a.k.a. database narrative) by filmmaker Roderick Coover and writer Scott Rettberg. The narrative follows six fictional characters living in a near-future landscape along the US eastern seaboard, one of North America’s first industrialized port districts and, today, home to five of its largest oil refineries. The project asks how conditions might change if repeated storm surges flooded the densely populated lands with toxins from the hundreds of sea-level petrochemical-industry sites and post-industrial brownfields. The fictions are interspersed with accounts of actual deaths resulting from recent storms, such as Hurricane Sandy.

Over a two-year period, Coover kayaked and walked Delaware River estuary and coastal regions filming locations threatened by sea-level rise. The visual explorations provided a foundation for Rettberg, who developed accounts of six characters living in communities of the Delaware River estuary. Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast just as he began work on the script, and devastated an area of New Jersey where Rettberg used to live, and he researched disaster victims’ stories.
Schedule
ASANOR 2015

Friday, October 23
University of Stavanger

12.00 – 13.00
Registration
AR-hus, Main lobby

13.00 – 13.15
Conference Opening
AR-hus, Ø-120

Alexandre Dessingue, Dean of Research, Faculty of Arts and Education, University of Stavanger

Alf Tomas Tønnessen, Volda University College, President of ASANOR

Jena Habegger-Conti, Arne Neset, Eric Dean Rasmussen, University of Stavanger, ASANOR 2015 Conference Chairs

13.15 – 14.45
Session A (Fulbright Roving Scholars Panel)
AR-hus, Ø-120

A. Technology and Education (Fulbright Roving Scholars Panel)

Chair: Jena Habegger-Conti, University of Stavanger

Torran Anderson, Fulbright Roving Scholar (lower secondary)

Using Digital Devices for Reading and School Work
John Hanson, Fulbright Roving Scholar (upper secondary)

Digital Teaching and Learning: Technology-Empowered Pedagogy in American Education
Sarah Anderson, Former Fulbright Roving Scholar, Mayville State University, USA

14.45 – 15.15
Registration and Coffee
AR-hus, Main lobby
Friday, October 23
University of Stavanger
(continued)

15.15 – 16.30
Screening and Discussion — TOXI•City
AR-hus, Ø-120

   TOXI•City
   Scott Rettberg, University of Bergen

16.30 – 17.00
Light Refreshments
AR-hus, Main lobby

17.00 – 18.30
ASANOR Keynote Address — David E. Nye
AR-hus, Ø-120

   Introduction: Arne Neset, University of Stavanger

   “Leo Marx, Reconsidered”
   David E. Nye, Center for American Studies, University of Southern Denmark
Saturday, October 24
Clarion Hotel Stavanger

09.00 – 10.00
U. S. Embassy Keynote Address — Jeffrey R. Di Leo
Inspiration Room

Introduction: Eric Dean Rasmussen, University of Stavanger

“Book Machines”
Jeffrey R. Di Leo, University of Houston-Victoria, Texas, USA

10.00 – 10.30
Coffee

10.30 – 12.00
Concurrent Session B1 and B2

B1. To Go, To Seek: The Impetus in the Machine
Inspiration Room

Chair: Lene Johannessen, University of Bergen

The “Little Event” of The Winchester House
Lene Johannessen, University of Bergen

Impetus and Effort: Dreaming of “Futureland”
Jena Habegger-Conti, University of Stavanger

Race, Technology, and Power
Kristen Over, University of Bergen, Northeastern Illinois University, USA

B2. Literature, Media, and Technology
Stemning Room

Chair: Hanna Musiol, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

The Preindustrial Avant Garde: Louis Zukofsky and the Index of American Design
Justin Parks, University of Turku, Finland

“What Machine is it that bears us along so relentlessly?”: Luddite Imagination and Technologies of Time in Thomas Pynchon’s Novels
Arkadiusz Misztal, University of Gdańsk, Poland

“Witness and Adjust”: A-technological Society in Le Guin’s Always Coming Home
Andy Meyer, The Northwest School, USA

Urban Future, New Media, and Critical Pedagogy
Hanna Musiol, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
Saturday, October 24
Clarion Hotel Stavanger
(continued)

12.00 – 13.00
**ASANOR General Meeting**
Inspiration Room

13.00 – 14.30
**Lunch**
Kitchen & Table, Clarion Hotel

14.30 – 16.00
**Concurrent Session C1 and C2**

**C1. Ecology, Ecocriticism, and the Environmental Humanities**
Inspiration Room

Chair: Eric Dean Rasmussen, *University of Stavanger*

Louisiana Poets – Puny Inexhaustible Voices in a State of Exception
Paul Schreiber, *Stockholm University, Sweden*

“What’s the Difference Between a Machine and a Garden?”: On Leo Marx and Contemporary Environmental Studies
Stephen Dougherty, *University of Agder*

“This is how she traps you”: Technologies of Text and Image in Joy Harjo and Stephen Strom’s *Secrets from the Center of the World*
Laura Castor, *University of Tromsø*

Michael Prince, *University of Agder*

**C2. Technology and U.S. Politics and Law**
Stemming Room

Chair: Alf Tomas Tønnessen, *Volda University College*

The Technological Sublimes of George W. Bush and Barack Obama:
U.S. Presidential Aesthetics in the 21st Century
Sue Barker, *CUNY Graduate Center, USA*

Technology, Fundraising, and Small Donors to Political Campaigns in the United States
Alf Tomas Tønnessen, *Volda University College*

Darkness in America: The Law and the Afro-American Community
Robert Mikkelsen, *Østfold University College*
Saturday, October 24
Clarion Hotel Stavanger
(continued)

16.00 – 16.30
Coffee

16.30 – 17.30
U. S. Embassy Keynote Address — Stephanie LeMenager
Inspiration Room

Introduction: Eric Dean Rasmussen, University of Stavanger

“Cultures of Oil and Water”
Stephanie LeMenager, University of Oregon, USA

20.00
Banquet at Bølgen & Moi
Kjerringholmen, Norwegian Petroleum Museum, Stavanger
Sunday, October 25
Clarion Hotel Stavanger

09.30 – 11.00
Session D
Inspiration Room

D. Technologies of War
Chair: Russell L. Johnson, University of Otago, New Zealand

“You’re Not Touching the Body of a Man”: Rehabilitating Disabled Soldiers in Clara Bow’s America
Russell L. Johnson, University of Otago, New Zealand

The Myth of the Techno-War: Vietnam and Its Victims
Aleksandra Musial, University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland

“Don’t Call Them Drones”: Technological Dreams and Killing Machines
Kevin Howley, DePauw University, USA

Technology and the War in the Twenty-First Century: Humans or Machines?
Tatiana Prorokova, Philipps-University of Marburg, Germany

11.00 – 11.30
Coffee

11.30 – 13.00
Session E
Inspiration Room

E. Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt
Chair: Asbjørn Grønstad, University of Bergen

Days of Devastation: Chris Hedges and Joe Sacco’s Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt
Øyvind Vågnes, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Mold in the Machine: Eric Overmyer and David Simon’s Treme
Synnøve Marie Vik, University of Bergen

Ethics, Affect and Eco-Terrorism in Kelly Reichardt’s Night Moves
Asbjørn Grønstad, University of Bergen

13.00 – 14.00
Lunch and Closing Remarks
Kitchen & Table, Clarion Hotel Stavanger

Closing Remarks:
Alf Tomas Tønnessen, Volda University College, President of ASANOR

Jena Habegger-Conti, Arne Neset, Eric Dean Rasmussen
University of Stavanger, ASANOR 2015 Conference Chairs