

# 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

<b>Friday</b>	11.30 – 12.00	ASANOR Board meeting
<b>October 23</b>	12.00 – 13.00	Registration
	13.00 – 13.15	<b>Conference Opening</b>
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	<b>Screening &amp; discussion: TOXI•City</b>
Stavanger (UiS)	16.30 – 17.00	Light refreshments (sandwiches, etc.)
	17.00 – 18.30	<b>ASANOR Keynote – David Nye</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	09.00 – 10.00	<b>U.S. Embassy Keynote – Jeffrey R. Di Leo</b>
<b>October 24</b>	10.00 – 10.30	Coffee
Clarion Hotel	10.30 – 12.00	Concurrent Session <b>B1</b> and <b>B2</b>
Stavanger	12.00 – 13.00	ASANOR General Meeting
	13.00 – 14.30	Lunch
	14.30 – 16.00	Concurrent Session <b>C1</b> and <b>C2</b>
	16.00 – 16.30	Coffee
	16.30 – 17.30	<b>U.S. Embassy Keynote – Stephanie LeMenager</b>
	20.00	Banquet at Bølgen & Moi, Norwegian Petroleum Museum
<b>Sunday</b>	09.30 – 11.00	Session <b>D</b>
<b>October 25</b>	11.00 – 11.30	Coffee
Clarion Hotel	11.30 – 13.00	Session <b>E</b>
Stavanger	13.00 – 14.00	Lunch and Closing Remarks

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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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 Hall. 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*

The Future of Books: A Look at the Current state of Storytelling and the Impact of  
Digital Books

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*

Literary Reactions to “Peak Oil”: From James Howard Kunstler’s *The Long Emergency* (2005) to *World Made by Hand* (2008)

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*