

Wallenberg Lecture Series: Multicultural Scandinavia



Tuesday, May 5, 2009 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Dr. Christine Ingebritsen, Professor of Scandinavian Studies; Maureen Eger, Doctoral student, Sociology; and Kristiana Brix, Honors student, International Studies; University of Washington

The Scandinavian emigrant is the focus of extensive archival, literary, film, and social study from the Vikings to the present day. Yet what happens when immigrants come to Scandinavia? What is their experience? Why do they go and where do they come from? How do Scandinavians view newcomers, and what is the promise for inclusion created by decades of humanitarian policy making? A panel of women from leading University of Washington departments (Scandinavian Studies, Sociology, and International Studies) will examine these questions.

About the Wallenberg Lecture Series

In tribute to Wallenberg's humanitarian work, the Museum presents the Wallenberg Lecture Series, exploring topics relevant to social justice and Scandinavian society. The theme for this year's series is The Immigrant Experience in Scandinavia. On Tuesday evenings through May and early June, lectures from scholars in Scandinavian literature, political science, and sociology will explore the challenges that immigrants to the Nordic region face in integration, as well as political and cultural successes in immigrant communities.

A ticket package which includes the **Wallenberg Dinner** and admission to the **entire Wallenberg Lecture Series** is also available at the cost of \$65.00 per person for members and \$80 for non-members. For reservations please contact **Sharmon Cooper** at or at 206-789-5707 ext 10.

Raoul Wallenberg Dinner - Wednesday, June 17, 2009 from 5:30pm

The Nordic Heritage Museum's 2009 Raoul Wallenberg Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2009, starting at 5:30 p.m. This annual event, initiated by State Senator Ken Jacobsen, is presented in honor of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, whose efforts saved the lives of thousands during World War II.

The 2009 Wallenberg Dinner features keynote speakers Dr. Marvin W. Makinen and Ari D. Kaplan, who will discuss their extensive research for the Swedish-Russian Working Group on the Fate of Raoul Wallenberg. Claims of the Soviet and Russian governments that Wallenberg, who was taken prisoner by the Soviet Union in 1945, died in 1947 have long been debated, for numerous eyewitness accounts have described sightings of Wallenberg in prisons, labor camps, and psychiatric institutions long after his alleged death. A large number of these reports focus on the Vladimir Prison located 200 kilometers east of Moscow. In the course of his research, Makinen, who was himself a prisoner in the Vladimir Prison, interviewed witnesses who identified Wallenberg as having been held there in solitary confinement. Makinen and computer database expert Kaplan together carried out a cell occupancy analysis, which demonstrated that records documenting the occupants of the cell in which Wallenberg was reportedly held had been removed from the prison archives—contributing to an evolving understanding of the possible circumstances surrounding Wallenberg's imprisonment.

The 2009 Raoul Wallenberg Dinner is presented in collaboration with the Washington State Jewish Historical Society; the Jewish Federation of Seattle; and the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center.

Wallenberg Lecture Series: Border Crossings: Migrant Literature in Scandinavia

Tuesday, May 12, 2009 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Claudia Berguson, Assistant Professor, Pacific Lutheran University

Migrant literature has become a literary genre of importance as the Scandinavian countries become multicultural nations of the 21st century. Authors of immigrant background offer in their short stories, poetry, and novels not only insights into the crossing of cultural borders, but also innovations in the crossing of linguistic boundaries. This lecture introduces diverse authors and themes of migrant literature, and explores the ways in which migrant literature challenges our assumptions of cultural, linguistic, and national identity.

Wallenberg Lecture Series: Post-Ethnic Identity in Swedish Literature

Tuesday, May 19, 2009 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Peter Leonard, Doctoral student, University of Washington

The 2000s saw a burst of literary creativity in Sweden, as young authors—many of them second-generation immigrants—began writing their own stories, set in a diversifying society where citizens with many different ethnic backgrounds were making claims to full-fledged Swedish identity. This talk will explore the imaginative fiction of Khemiri, Wenger, and Bakhtiari for hints of a new, “post-ethnic” Nordic identity.

Wallenberg Lecture Series: Immigration to Europe and Finland: Latest Trends

Tuesday, May 26, 2009 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Kirsti Westphalen, Consul General at Consulate General of Finland, Los Angeles

Europe needs more workers. From where do they come, and how are the newcomers going to be integrated in the European societies? How do we fight illegal immigration, which harms the immigrants, distorts the labor market, and undermines the rights of all employees? Central European countries have a longer history of immigration; Finland is just entering a multicultural era. Good relations are a precondition for mutual harmony between immigrants and the rest of the population, for equal opportunities in practice and for access to the fullest possible range of knowledge and skills in strengthening our common social wellbeing. The basic premise behind integration is that it must work two ways.

Wallenberg Lecture Series: The Muhammad Caricature Controversy in Denmark

Tuesday, June 2, 2009 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Troy Storfjell, Assistant Professor, Pacific Lutheran University

Dr. Storfjell will speak on the Muhammad Caricature Controversy of 2005–2006, which centered around the printing of twelve cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten, and the sometimes violent international reaction they provoked. Dr. Storfjell will examine the controversy in the context of immigration and xenophobia in Denmark and Scandinavia, and in the larger context of Western-Islamic relations.

Wallenberg Lecture Series: Rewriting the Promised Land

Tuesday, June 9, 2009 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Ursula Lindqvist, Preceptor in Scandinavian, Harvard University

Dr. Lindqvist will discuss the innovative work of Iranian-born Swedish playwright and director Farnaz Arbabi, who in 2006 adapted Vilhelm Moberg’s classic novel series Utvandrarerna [The Emigrants], Invandrarerna [Unto a Good Land], Nybyggarna [Settlers], and Sista brevet till Sverige [Last Letter Home] (1949–1959), for the Swedish stage. Arbabi’s play rewrites Moberg’s epic tale of Swedes migrating to the American Midwest in the 19th century to feature Russian, Balkan, and Iranian emigrants who migrate to 21st-century Sweden, now one of the world’s wealthiest nation-states.