

A Reading Crisis? The Challenges and Affordances of Reading Generally and Reading Fiction Specifically

Arranged by

PhDnet “Literary and Cultural Studies”, Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany

The Department of Slavic and Baltic Studies, Finnish, Dutch and German,

and the Department of English, Stockholm University, Sweden

All events, if not stated otherwise, take place in Aula Magna, Stockholm University,
Frescativägen 6, 114 18 Stockholm, Sweden

Thursday, 10 October 2024

09:30-09:45 Words of Welcome:

Prof. Stefan Helgesson (Stockholm University), Prof. Elisabeth Wåghäll Nivre (Stockholm University), Dr. Deborah de Muijnck (Justus Liebig University Giessen)

09:45-10:45 Keynote Lecture “**Reading Minds and Enacted Environments**”

Dr. Merja Polvinen (University of Helsinki)

Room: Bergsmannen

Chair: Dr. Deborah de Muijnck (Justus Liebig University Giessen)

10:45-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 Parallel Panels 1 & 2

Panel 1) The Challenging Role of Reading in the (Digital) Environment of Secondary Education

(Room: Bergsmannen)

Chair: Prof. Kirsten von Hagen (Justus Liebig University Giessen)

- A) Dr. **Alexandra Cheira** (CEAUL/ ULICES, University of Lisbon): “There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book”: On Helping Portuguese Lower Secondary-School Students Find the Right Book.
- B) **Semmy Claassen** (Utrecht University): Understanding Digital Bookish Platforms before Intervening in Secondary Literary Education: Conceptions of Reading on BookTok, BookTube and Bookstagram.
- C) Dr. **Olli Löytty** (University of Turku): Finnish upper Secondary School Students Reading a Dystopian Novel: Attitudes towards Emmi Itäranta’s *Teemestarin Kirja* (2012, *Memory of Water* 2014).

Panel 2) Exploring the Dynamics of Reading: From Individual Motivation to Cultural Practices

(Room: Polstjärnan)

Chair: Prof. Joakim Wrethed (Stockholm University)

- A) **Elise Nykänen & Sarianna Kankkunen** (University of Helsinki): Why Do We Read Fiction? From Hypotheses to Empirical Findings.
- B) **Roosa Suomalainen** (University of Helsinki): Readers’ Voice and Identity Work in the 2020s Finnish Reading Culture.
- C) Assoc. Prof. **Kari Spjeldnæs** (Kristiania University College, Oslo): Parenting of Readers. An Exploration of the Reading Habitus.

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Parallel Panels 3 & 4

Panel 3) Consequences of (Post-)Digital Reading and Writing on Media Literacy and Educational Design (Room: Bergsmannen)

Chair: Dr. Christine Becker (Stockholm University)

- A) Dr. **Inge van de Ven & Sonali Kulkarni** (Tilburg University): Goodreads and the Rereading Paradox: Affect, Attention, Affordances.
- B) Dr. **Siebe Bluijs & Emmy Stevens** (Tilburg University): The Effects of GenAI on L1 Language and Literature Education.
- C) Prof. **Sander Bax & Eline Peeters** (Tilburg University): What We Can Learn from Intermedial Public Authorship.

Panel 4) Fostering Engaged Reading through Fiction (Room: Polstjärnan)

Chair: Prof. Elisabeth Wåghäll Nivre (Stockholm University)

- A) Prof. **Fabienne Viala** (University of Warwick): Latin American and Caribbean Cli-fi: Reading to Imagine the Possibility of Hope beyond Multiple Collapses.
- B) **Louise Louw** (GCSC, Justus Liebig University Giessen): Reading Truth in Fiction: The Representational Value of Historical Fiction in Conveying Collective Trauma.
- C) Dr. **Pedram Dibazar** (Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis, University of Amsterdam): Slow, Engaged, and Creative Reading: Reviving an Immersive Experience of Education.

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00-17:30 Parallel Panels 5 & 6

Panel 5) Mechanisms of Coping with the Reading Crisis in the Digital Age (Room: Bergsmannen)

Chair: Dr. Deborah de Muijnck (Justus Liebig University)

- A) **Helena Como** (University of Bergamo): How Much Can We Afford (Not) to Read? Developing New Reading Practices against the Times.
- B) Dr. **Sara Tanderup Linkis** & Dr. **Julia Pennlert** (Lund University): Sound Texts. How Audiobooks Transform Writing, Production and Uses of Literature.
- C) Dr. **Corina Löwe** & Dr. **Angela Marx Åberg** (Linnaeus University): What Literary Texts Do to their Readers.

Panel 6) The Power of Long-Form Reading (Room: Polstjärnan)

Chair: Prof. Elisabeth Wåghäll Nivre (Stockholm University)

- A) **Luca Siniscalco** (University of Bergamo): The Age of Hyperaesthetics and Dromocracy: Long-Form Reading as an Act of Rebellion.
- B) Prof. **Bengt Novén** (Stockholm University): Proust and Reading.
- C) Prof. **Kirsten von Hagen** (Justus Liebig University Giessen): Don Quixote, Emma Bovary and a Self-Experiment: How Reading Changes our Lives.

18:30 Conference Dinner

Friday, 11 October 2024

09:00-10:15 Keynote Lecture “**Love Language: Media History, the Reading Crisis, and the Alien Loops of Poetry**”

Prof. Jesper Olsson (Uppsala University)

Room: Bergsmannen

Chair: Prof. Joakim Wrethed (Stockholm University)

10:15-11:45 Parallel Panels 7 & 8

Panel 7) Revitalizing Literary Engagement: Challenging the Passive Reader (Room: Bergsmannen)

Chair: Prof. Bengt Novén (Stockholm University)

- A) Dr. **Matteo Gallo Stampino** (University of Bergamo): Wenderomane and Narrator's Unreliability as Antidote to “Fast-Food for the Brain”: the Case of Benjamin Stein, Yoko Tawada and Shida Bazyar.
- B) Prof. **Andrew Elfenbein** (University of Minnesota): Neil Gaiman and the Future of Literary Reading.
- C) **Olga Husch** (UCP Lisbon): *Minor Feelings*. Essayistic Interventions with the Crisis of a Tired Reader.

Panel 8) Providing Solutions for the Crisis of Reading in the Sphere of Education (Room: Polstjärnan)

Chair: Dr. Christine Becker (Stockholm University)

- A) Dr. **Maria Freij** & Dr. **Lena Ahlin** (Kristianstad University): Reading in a Time of Crisis—or—Long Reading, Short Reading, or No Reading?
- B) **Damianos Tzoupis** (University of Edinburgh): The Uniqueness of Reading a Classic - Active Reading, Uses of a Classical text, and the Reading Diary.
- C) **Annalina Benner** (GCSC, Justus Liebig University Giessen): “Workshopping the Canon”. Reading Fiction across the Curriculum.

11:45-12:30 Brown bag lunch

12:30-13:30 Parallel Panels 9 & 10

Panel 9) Community and Networking in the Times of Reading Crisis (Room: Bergsmannen)

Chair: Dr. Deborah de Muijnck (Justus Liebig University Giessen)

- A) **Lucía Camargo-Rojas** (Deusto University, Bilbao): Book Clubs in Academic Libraries as a Place Where Participants Experience Literature Leisure Reading.
- B) Dr. **Maaria Linko** (University of Helsinki): Readers' Book Recommendations in the Networked Reading Culture.

Panel 10) Revisiting the Past of and Looking into the Future of Reading (Room: Polstjärnan)

Chair: Prof. Elisabeth Wåghäll Nivre (Stockholm University)

- A) **Marco Presago** (GCSC, Justus Liebig University Giessen): Reading the Contemporary Reading Crisis through Sven Birkerts’s *The Gutenberg Elegies* (1994): Arguments and Perspectives 30 Years Later.
- B) Prof. **Massimo Salgaro** (University of Verona): The Digital as a Remedy for the Crisis of Literature.

13:30-14:00 Summary:

Prof. Joakim Wrethed (Stockholm University), Dr. Deborah de Muijnck (Justus Liebig University Giessen)