



# AASSC NEWSLETTER

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**ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF  
SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES  
IN CANADA**

**L'ASSOCIATION POUR  
L'AVANCEMENT DES  
ÉTUDES SCANDINAVES  
AU CANADA**

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## **News from The President**

Dear AASSC Members and Friends!

Spring is slowly coming, and the Commons in Halifax is showing tinges of bright green. In AASSC we are approaching the end of our fiscal year and the beginning of a new one on May 1. This year is election year, not just for our Federal parties but also for a new AASSC Executive. Please put your name forward to the Nominating Committee, chaired by Professor Gurli Woods, should you wish to serve in any of the executive positions. Also, if there are any items you would like to see on the agenda for the Annual General Meeting, please send me a note. This will enable the Executive to bring them forward for general consideration.

The winter has been relatively quiet. Although we have come almost to expect it, funding for our various fields of research is under pressure. The Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences Congress where AASSC is one of 80 scholarly associations, together representing more than 85,000 researchers, has developed a new strategy seeking to disseminate the value and relevance of our types of research to society. Increased use of electronic communication and networking is but one of the means to our disposal. For further information on the Federation strategy see the link furnished later in this Newsletter.

Our biggest event, the annual meeting is soon to take place. This year it will be held



at the University of St. Thomas and University of New Brunswick in Fredericton May 30 to June 2. Vice President Ingrid Urberg has prepared a varied and interesting program touching on Scandinavian literature, folklore, immigration, archaeology, and art. The Keynote Speaker will be Professor Kathleen Stokker, the Director of Scandinavian Studies at Luther College, Iowa, who will speak on Norwegian immigrant "folk healers." We are, as always, grateful to the Canadian Institute for Nordic Studies at the University of Alberta for their support of this event. Our banquet will take place in the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, now the confirmed owner of most of the famous Lord Beaverbrook art collection.

This is my last note as your President. After four years, my term is up. Thank you for the honour of serving you and your support throughout the years.

I hope to see you soon in Fredericton!

Birgitta Wallace,  
President AASSC



## AASSC Conference at the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University – Fredericton May 30 - June 2, 2011.

### NOTE FROM THE PROGRAMMING CHAIR

The 2011 AASSC program for our meeting in Fredericton, New Brunswick (May 30 - June 2) has been set. This year the Congress hosts are the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University, and AASSC will be welcoming participants from Canada, the United States, Iceland, and Norway. The general Congress theme is Coasts and Continents: Exploring Peoples and Places, and we will have several paper sessions linked to this topic. Our CINS (Canadian Institute for Nordic Studies) keynote speaker is Dr. Kathleen Stokker from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and she will be presenting on Norwegian Folk Medicine on the American Prairie: Who, What and Why?

I am very happy to report that several graduate students will be presenting papers in Fredericton. Students represent our future, and it is wonderful to have them participating at our meeting. A number of representatives from the Nordic Embassies have been invited, and I would like to welcome them in advance. The working lunch with the Embassies on June 1 is open to all AASSC participants.

Our banquet this year will be held on June 1 at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery. Beaverbrook is the provincial art gallery of New Brunswick, and it contains a Salvador Dali—reputedly the largest in the world—in its permanent

collection. ([www.beaverbrookartgallery.org](http://www.beaverbrookartgallery.org)) The evening will start at 6:30 with a guided gallery tour, followed by a buffet style salmon dinner with a cash bar. Tickets for the banquet will be available at the meeting, but the caterer needs a final count a week before the event. Please e-mail me to reserve a spot or two (guests are welcome) at [iurberg@ualberta.ca](mailto:iurberg@ualberta.ca) by May 23. We need to sell at least 25 tickets, so please consider attending this event. The cost will be approximately \$60 and graduate students will receive a discount.

Will C. van den Hoonaard is serving as our on-site representative, and he deserves special thanks for all of the work he is doing in preparation for our meeting. If you have any questions or comments about the program, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing everyone in Fredericton!

The detailed program can be found on the AASSC Website here:

<http://aassc.com/category/conference/>

Sincerely,  
Ingrid Urberg

## The AASSC Student/ Unfunded Faculty Incentive Fund

Members wishing to present a paper at the upcoming AASSC Congress, who do not receive travel funding from their respective institutions, be they faculty or graduate students, are invited to apply for a travel scholarship of \$500 from the above fund.

The application should detail status of the applicant, title of paper and an abstract.

Please direct the application to:

[rickard.enstrom@ualberta.net](mailto:rickard.enstrom@ualberta.net)



## “Aktuel skandinavistik” - Ph.D. og Post. Doc. Sommerskole i skandinaviske studier, Københavns Universitet, 18.-19. juni 2011

Sommerskolen vil sætte fokus på aktuelle tendenser inden for forskning i skandinaviske studier, primært inden for litteratur, æstetik og kultur.

Formålet er at etablere et forum, hvor ph.d.-studerende og seniorforskere kan diskutere teoretiske og metodologiske spørgsmål samt faglige perspektiver, både fremad og bagud, i deres forskning.

Indbudte forelæsere fra ind- og udland vil holde oplæg om deres igangværende eller netop afsluttede forskningsprojekter.

Blandt forelæserne er: Karin Sanders (Berkeley), Anna Westerståhl Stenport (Illinois), Poul Behrendt, Johnny Kondrup og Erik Skyum-Nielsen (alle København).

Ph.d.-studerende vil få mulighed for at fremlægge deres projekter, enten i dets helhed eller med fokus på udvalgte aspekter eller problemer.

**Tilmelding til kurset kan ske til Anders Juhl Rasmussen på [ajr@hum.ku.dk](mailto:ajr@hum.ku.dk) senest 2. maj 2011.**

Sammen med tilmeldingen bedes man sende en mikrobekrivelse af sit ph.d.-projekt (max ½ side) og markere om man ønsker at fremlægge sit projekt i plenum.



Der vil være frokost begge dage, og middag for sommerskolens deltagere lørdag aften. Sommerskolen er gratis, men udgifter til rejse og ophold afholdes af deltagerne.

Kurset arrangeres i et samarbejde mellem Centre for Scandinavian Studies Copenhagen-Lund og Københavns Universitets Forskeruddannelsesprogram i Kulturstudier ved Lasse Horne Kjældgaard, Anders Juhl Rasmussen og Jan Rosiek.



## 1ste Internationale CSS Conference: Skandinaviske engagementer 1945-1967, København 20-21 juni 2011

I et internationalt avantgardelogisk perspektiv kan man betragte det tyvende århundredes kultur i forhold til to klynger af "begivenheder", en klassisk heroisk (høj) modernisme i kunstarterne fra begyndelsen af århundredet og en begyndende postmodernisme i både kunst og teori fra ca. 1970, der begge først blev navngivet og kortlagt senere. Den nordiske udvikling er ikke samtidig hermed, men snarere på de fleste områder forsinket, ligesom en ny kunstart som filmen næppe artikulere en paradigmatisk modernisme før efter 1945

Perioden mellem anden verdenskrigs afslutning og de begivenheder, der ofte sammenfattes som "68", er en mellempriode, og det er tanken med konferencen at undersøge hvorledes den arter sig i de nordiske lande. Globalt er det politiske klima præget af den kolde krig, som håndteres vidt forskelligt i de nordiske lande, fra dansk NATO-alliance over svensk neutralitet til finsk quasi-sovjetisk satellit. På hjemmefronten konsolideres velfærdsstaten og den kulturelle demokratisering (trods distinktionen mellem fin- og trivial- eller populærkultur) og der foregår en markant demografisk-økonomisk forskydning fra land til by.

Idehistorisk kan perioden siges at befinde sig i et spændingsfelt mellem eksistentialisme og marxisme, hvad der også præger forhandlinger og cirkulationer i det æstetiske felt, hvor politisk engagement brydes med avantgardistiske og modernistiske udfordringer, og mimetisk realisme med eksperimenterende og hermetiske tendenser.

Blandt forelæserne: Per Thomas Andersen (Oslo), Niels Gunder Hansen (SDU), Klaus Müller-Wille (Zürich), Søren Schou (Roskilde), Marianne Stüdsen (København), Tania Ørum (København).

Program and sign up information here by June 7, 2011 the latest:

[http://inss.ku.dk/kalendera/first\\_css/1st\\_International\\_CSS\\_Conference.pdf/](http://inss.ku.dk/kalendera/first_css/1st_International_CSS_Conference.pdf/)



## *The End of Iceland's Innocence* *The Image of Iceland in the Foreign Media during the Financial Crisis*

By Daniel Chartier

In the space of a few days, one of the world's richest and most egalitarian nations, Iceland, toppled into financial chaos and sunk into an economic, ethical, moral and identity crisis. The vast empire built by Iceland's young entrepreneurs, the "new Vikings" — who had propelled the country to the top of wealth, equality and happiness charts — collapsed under the combined effect of the failure of its banks and astronomical debt (more than ten times the country's gross domestic product). Iceland became, in the midst of the global economic crisis, an icon of disaster that troubles all Western countries seeking to understand how the Scandinavian model could collapse so suddenly.

In this book, Daniel Chartier traces, through thousands of articles appearing in the foreign press, the fascinating reversal of Iceland's image during the crisis. Citizens of a country now humiliated, Icelanders must deal with a number of significant issues including the quest for wealth, sovereignty, ethics, responsibility, gender and the limits of neoliberalism.

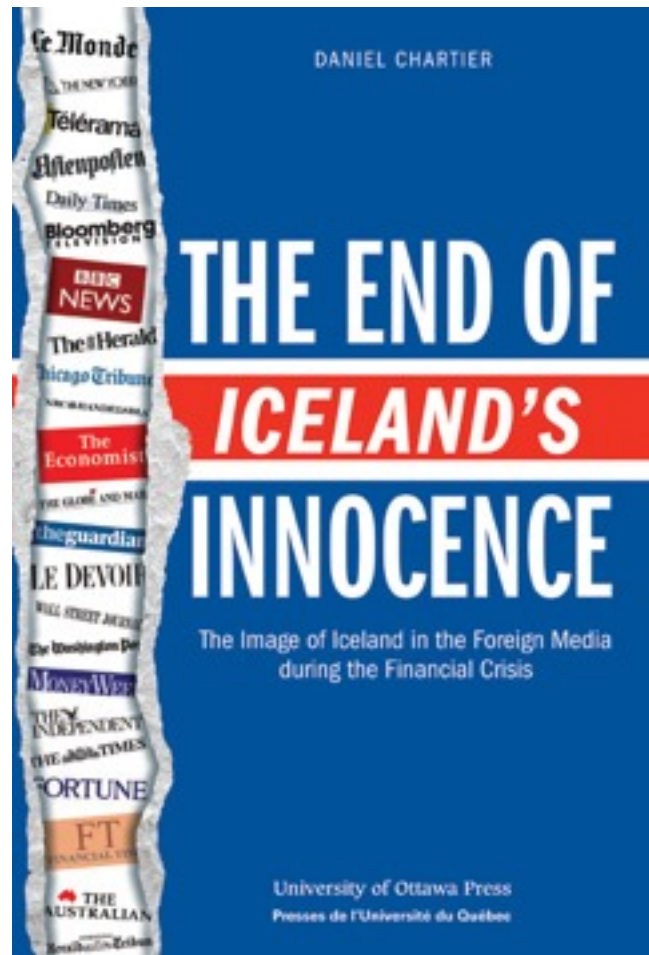
Daniel Chartier is a professor at the Université du Québec à Montréal and Director of the International Laboratory for the Comparative Multidisciplinary Study of Representations of the North.

\$29.95 . Paperback . 240 pages

Order online at <http://www.press.uottawa.ca/book/the-end-of-icelands-innocence>

Also available at Amazon.com, Amazon.ca and Chapters.Indigo.ca.

Instructors may request an examination copy at <http://www.press.uottawa.ca/info/exam-copy-request-form?isbn=9780776607603>



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## Double Book Review: *Two Planks and a Passion & The Culture and Sport of Skiing*

It is a bit of overkill isn't it? to have two serious (academic-oriented) authors each producing a massive book that deals with the history of skiing, from the perspective of the development of a seasonal northerly sport that in a span of approx. 150 years describes how a Norwegian pastime, explodes first into a national sport, which, in turn, around 1800 starts spreading southward, across the Baltic Sea into Continental Europe and its various mountain ranges and alps. It is a fascinating history to read about! And not only reaching the winter regions in Europe, but also going transatlantic, in the course becoming a popular sport in both eastern and western North America, again thanks to not only the Norwegians, but also to converted European emigrants/immigrants. Many hailed from Scandinavia and in more recent decades of the 20th century, also from the European alps due to political upheavals that eventually resulted in the outbreak of World War II, September 1, 1939. The historical account of the history of skiing is a big story, hence, it might rather need two voluminous books - one would have been one too few!

We start with the most recent publication, Roland Huntford's *History Of Skiing*, published in 2008, and follow up with E.A. Allen's version of the same theme the year before, published in 2007. So, the story is more or less a "twin starter" for the reader:

"TWO PLANKS AND A PASSION - the dramatic history of skiing" (436 pages, published in 2008, Continuum UK, London) is a playful title on a large history topic by author-journalist Roland Huntford introducing his monumental book on the history of skiing, - all 400 pages plus. Included as well is 23 pages of densely printed

biography and index, a comprehensive material in a tightly printed text format, with some 60 dispersed, faded black and white illustrations - etchings drawings and photographic material - from some of the monumental highlights of a long, some 6000-years'-plus history. The history literally starts with the retreat of the last massive land ice that during a couple of thousand years stoically had expanded southward, and in this last spatial advance, eventually also covered northern Germany and Poland as well as the Baltic States, and of course the Fenno-scandian peninsula (= read the Nordic region"). The first archeological dating of skis occurs somewhere around 7000 B.C in Finland, at the town of Heinola, with other finds in northern Scandinavia - Hoting in northern Sweden, Kalvträsk north of Umeå, Sweden and at Alta in northern Norway. Starting the history with those, other archeological discoveries are younger, but most of them are, still, usually confined to northern latitudes and Fennoscandian territory, where the winter season tends to be steady, and, therefore, the ski at an early stage became an essential equipment for Man's survival in a harsh seasonal hunting environment. - The book's illustrations tend to date from the heroic 19th century, when skiing took off as a daring, and increasingly popular winter sport in wintry Scandinavia: the Norwegians were the first to convert a simplistic, utilitarian "gliding/sliding" transport device into a sport to enjoy - the first official ski race was actually held in Norway 1843) - their particular national pastime par excellence, while the Amundsen South pole team made it into a breathless, awe-inspiring international ski race across the antarctic Polar ice shelf reaching the

South Pole Dec.14, 1911 - and magnificently surviving the return journey, also on skis, which was hardly the case of Scott "of Antarctica", his competitor. Scott's whole exploration party perished on the return trek.

In between, Huntford traces "the innovation of a sport" filled with vigour, enthusiasm and tantalizing, healthy charm: some 36 chapters do the job, after which the reader can lean back in his chair, lets his stare rest from the reading exercise and conclude that he now knows - and understands - "how come" that it all happened? Had it not happened in Norway and with the Norwegians in the fore, could it ever have happened with such élan, enthusiasm, persistency, drive and a constant of continuous, innovative product design and, even at an early stage, systematic testing of a skier's equipment - from "two planks", as described by the author, via boot design and binding development to ski length and use of two poles and later, in the interwar years with the thrill of the novel alpine skiing and racing sport? Ah, it is all a fascinating story - well told! - Huntford lives up to the objectives of his book - to provide a historical account and an interpretation of the development of skiing - which goes from a practical and joyful national pastime practiced by a small northern population to become, literally, a global enterprise, with a seasonal passion. - When it comes to the tracking down of specific historical ski information the author is outstanding. The reference section of his book gives proof of that particular talent. So, the history volume covers most effectively how skiing evolved from being a practical mode of winter transport to an inspiring and

enjoyable outdoor-oriented seasonal recreation.

What comes as a bit of a disappointment is the disinterest, or lack of “conceptualization/ modelization” of the subject matter. The investigative effort and the presentation of the historical facts unearthed by the author is impressive, but it is never analysed from the point of view of in this case applicable spatial processes, that clearly have a place also in an historical analysis.

The phenomenon studied - “history of skiing” as such is eminently suited to the applications of the versatile “spatial diffusion” concept, simply because that is what the historic process as such could have presented in three, quite distinct interconnected stages: I) the regional origins (= northern, seasonal), ii) the diffusion (= the spatial movement - the spread of skiing into new, geographic regions, beyond the origin of Norway), iii) the acceptance (= new destinations areas picking up / accepting the novelty). - All three functions in themselves constitute the essential methodological stages of the classical spatial diffusion model application of the phenomenon investigated. On the other hand, there has been very little done in terms of studying skiing as a comprehensive historical phenomenon. By providing a careful and very complete interpretation of how it has spread from high northern latitudes to lower latitudes in central Europe all the way southward into the European alps region, perhaps a spatial diffusion application might very well become the next investigative methodology to pursue! Now, with Huntford’s study we at least have a comprehensive data base chronology that could be put to more systematic use by applying a more measurable, conceptual or - dare we use the term - science related approach.

E. John B. Allen has a long history of sport history research and ski history

publication. **“The Culture and Sport of Skiing : from Antiquity to World War II “ , 2007, 384 pages, 60**

illustrations; University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, USA, has basically the same layout and structure as that of Huntford’s work. The fundamental difference lies in the different range of chapters. Allen’s work is divided into 17 chapters, while Huntford features almost the double number, some 36. Evidently, Huntford provides a more specialized or specific account of the story told - one can via the reference index track down more detailed information on a given item, such as “bindings” or “ski poles”, ski wax or the skier’s physiology-related aspects. Therefore, Huntford’s book works more like a massive encyclopedia, for better or worse! One can find literally any item with additional references for a follow up. Could it be that Huntford has computerized his bibliography? - But overall, Allen’s and Huntford’s structure of the documentation presented, and the chapter title names provide enough steering for the reader. The results seem to be right, hence one can read and compare at the same time! What perhaps is striking in the comparison is the dramatic geopolitical story about “the rescuing” of the Austrian senior alpine ski master and Chief Ski School director Hannes Schneider of St. Anton in western Vorarlberg in 1938-39, after the German Anschluss in the Spring of 1938. Schneider was arrested as a matter of form by the Austrian Nazis, most likely because he was an independently thinking person, who wanted nothing more than continue his rather global instruction program, but who, nevertheless, was regarded as dangerous - perhaps too international through his ski school, too popular, too internationally renowned in the eyes of the Austrian gauleiters who carried out the arrest. Still, by some masterly negotiations with the top Nazi leadership Schneider was freed, put on a train for France and a transatlantic voyage

steamship to New York. He landed according to schedule in the USA, where he set about to “re-set” his beloved ski school program together with other Austrian ski school instructors that also fled during the 16 months’ window between Anschluss and the beginning of W.W.II September 1, 1939, which made possible various escape routes. The von Trapp story and the hugely successful movie version in the form of “The Sound of Music” seem to suggest various ways. Through Schneider himself the North Conway and Cranmore ski mountain with its famous snowmobile ski lift replaced rather quickly his alpine home environment as his center of work. The ski school flourished and Schneider could continue to teach his Arlberg teaching method - his particular and important contribution to the development of popular alpine skiing in North America, Canada included.

To conclude, read both books, it is definitely worth the time!

Montreal April 4 2011

Jan O.Lundgren

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