



Summaries of postdoctoral projects approved in 2022

Project manager	Project title
Camilla Larsson	Serious and with Poetic Powers: Polish Art Exhibited in Sweden from the Cold War Period up until Today
<p>Summary: This project's overall ambition is to explore Polish art in Sweden between 1968 - 2018. The timeframe is chosen because it includes the recent past, up until the present marked by different political systems. Regardless of the amount of exchanges and events that have taken place, these activities have been insufficiently investigated, since previous research has been oriented towards the Western art world. This study will explore artistic transfers that were vital, in spite of the national borders being marked by political tension. Polish artists exhibited at Swedish art museums, kunsthalls and galleries, artists and curators had close contacts, and Polish art was commissioned for public spaces. For instance, Magdalena Abakanowicz and Władysław Hasior experimented with site-specific sculpture, that the Swedish public experienced first-hand. And art critics paid attention, defining Hasior's work as "serious and with poetic powers". The specific aim is to investigate the role(s) of Polish art in the Swedish art context. Theoretically, a critical historiography will be adopted, using "horizontal art history" (Piotrowski 2009a). This perspective undercuts the prevalent understanding that art during the post-war period developed from a North American idiom (Dossin 2008). Exhibition analysis and reception analysis will be used as methods. By placing exhibitions with Polish art in Sweden at the centre, new perspectives on the understanding of artistic exchange will be highlighted.</p>	
Anna-Karin Selberg	Industry of lies: How lies are transformed into reality in a Russian "troll-farm"
<p>Summary: The Internet Research Agency (IRA) is a so-called "troll-farm", which is based in St. Petersburg and has ties to the Kremlin. It has been described as a "factory" producing disinformation and lies on an industrial scale through social media. How can the systematic, organized and "industrial" version of the political lie that appears today in Russia be understood and conceptualized? The aim of the proposed project is to analyze material mainly provided by scientific studies on IRA and Russian influence operations through social media that use the same tactics as IRA, through the method of discourse analysis. The main theory that will be applied is Hannah Arendt's notion of "the modern political lie". Characteristic for her concept of the modern political lie is that it makes use of media, mass communication and PR in order to transform fictions and outright mendacities into reality. Since Arendt's own writings on this topic leave plenty of room for development, the aim is also to use IRA as an example through which the concept of modern lying can be developed further. The project thereby contributes significantly to the growing research field that studies "post-truth politics" in relation to the undermining of democratic institutions. Whereas research on post-truth has for the most part focused on the appeal to emotions and personal beliefs rather than to facts in politics, the proposed project examines an organized, systematic and "industrial" version of the political lie.</p>	



Ralph Tafon

Climate justice? Democracy, equity, capability, and power in Just Transition practice.

Summary: The EU has adopted a Just Transition (JT) Fund to support regions most adversely impacted by transitions to a carbon-free Europe. While this signals commitment to link transition with justice concerns, the EU JT is conceived narrowly in terms of jobs, which neglects other justice issues. Combining a tridimensional theory of justice with power and capability, I analyze the politics of JT in Ida-Viru in Estonia, examining how geopolitics, energy securitization, power relations, and processes of misrecognition and misrepresentation hinder the multidimensional wellbeing of marginalized groups. I also explore processes and practices that can enhance capabilities needed to fulfil group wellbeing and support local ownership and acceptance of transitions. Observation of JT processes, interview with communities, environmental groups, JT planners, municipal agents etc., and the study of media statements, regulatory, policy and planning documents constitute the primary means of gathering data. The study is especially relevant in an era of increased security concern over a warring Russia, with whom Estonia and the rest of the EU seek to cut all energy ties and dependence. Wind energy expansion is a key means to this end. Yet Estonia's Defense sector is obstructive due to radar obstructions and Ida Viru's proximity to Russia. The presence of "big" interests could close down democratic space locally, reinforcing the misrecognition, misrepresentation and thus disempowerment of weaker groups

Fredrik Valdeson

Language contact and language change in the Baltic Sea Region: The use of ditransitive verbs and the prepositions till and åt in Sweden Swedish and Finland Swedish

Summary: This project focuses on language contact between Finnish and Finland Swedish, as well as between Danish and Sweden Swedish. More specifically, the aim is to study the role of language contact as a possible explanatory factor behind the differences between Sweden Swedish and Finland Swedish when it comes to the use of ditransitive verbs and the prepositions *åt* and *till*. It is known from previous research that Finland Swedish construes ditransitive verbs like *ge* 'give' with the preposition *åt* (*ge ngt åt ngn* 'give sth. to sb.') to a much larger degree than Sweden Swedish. Sweden Swedish prefers the preposition *till* (*ge ngt till ngn* 'give sth. to sb.') or the double object construction (*ge ngn ngt* 'give sb. sth.'). The purpose of the project is to study when and why these differences between Finland Swedish and Sweden Swedish arose. The project will use naturally occurring corpus data and will result in three studies. Study 1 will examine the extent to which the constructional behaviour of ditransitive verbs differs between Sweden Swedish and Finland Swedish at various stages of history. Study 2 will focus on changes in the semantics of the prepositions *till* and *åt* in the two varieties. Finally, Study 3 will address the issue of language contact as an explanatory factor. The project will produce results that may indicate when the two varieties of Swedish started to diverge, thus contributing with new knowledge on language contact and language change in the Baltic Sea Region.