

## **ASF FELLOWSHIPS FOR AMERICANS IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES 2023-24**

**New York, NY**—The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) is pleased to announce its 2023-24 American Fellows. ASF supports cultural and educational exchange between the Nordic region (Denmark, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sámpí, and Sweden) and the United States. ASF's fellowships help further academic scholarship and scientific research and encourage expressions in the creative arts and music. Awards are made in all fields.

We are now accepting applications for ASF's 2024-25 Fellowships for Americans in the Nordic Countries. The upcoming deadline is **November 1, 2023**.

To learn more about ASF's Fellowship program, [please explore our website here](#) or email us at [grants@amscan.org](mailto:grants@amscan.org).



—IMAGES (L-R)—2022-23 ASF FELLOW MALORY PETERSON HARVESTING COMMON EIDER DUCK WITH LOCAL HUNTERS OUTSIDE OF NUUK DURING HER RESEARCH STAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GREENLAND; 2022-23 ASF FELLOW MEG JONES RECEIVING AN AWARD FOR PROMOTING QUEER ISSUES AND EQUITY ON CAMPUS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI'S QUEER STUDENT ORGANIZATION AT THEIR ANNUAL QUEER GALA IN NOVEMBER 2022.

### **TO DENMARK**

#### **ALSDORF, Bridget, from Princeton University**

Sabbatical Research Project, Art History, Skagens Museum, Royal Danish Library, Danish Film Institute

Dr. Alsdorf is conducting research for a monograph on the aesthetics of intimacy and domestic enclosure in Nordic artwork from the Scandinavian Modern Breakthrough (1870s-1890s) through World War I. In particular, she is interested in artworks made by couples either through both collaborative and oppositional practices. Using famous Nordic artistic partnerships (including Skagen artists Vilhelm and Ida Hammershøi, the Norwegian photographers Marie Høeg and Bolette Berg, and Danish film star Asta Nielsen and Danish director Urban Gad) as focal points for several book chapters, Dr. Alsdorf examines Nordic art within the context of the turn-of-the-century critiques on the Nordic model of marriage, domesticity, and gender roles. In 2008, she received her PhD in the History of Art from the University of California, Berkeley, and she is currently Professor of Art & Archaeology at Princeton University.

#### **COFFMAN-REA, Kara from Northern Illinois University**

Dissertation Research Project, Chemistry, Aalborg University

Ms. Coffman-Rae's dissertation research centers on the relationship between microplastic particles and the human body. Hypothesizing that breathing is the main source of microplastics ingestion in human lungs, Ms. Coffman-Rae will examine human tissue for microplastics in both the upper respiratory and lower

respiratory tracts using Fourier-transform infrared (FTIR) and Raman spectroscopy alongside Pyrolysis Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (PyrGC/MS). Ms. Coffman-Rae intends to complete her data collection by utilizing Aalborg University's laboratory in the Department of Built Environment, which is dedicated to microplastics research. She is currently a PhD candidate in Biological Sciences at Northern Illinois University, and, in 2021, she was the recipient of both the Hubbard Award for Excellence in Human Anatomical Sciences and the American Microscopical Society (AMS) Student Research Fellowship Award.

**ERIKSEN, Sarah from the University of California, Berkeley**

Dissertation Research Project, Languages and Literatures, The Hans Christian Andersen Center

Ms. Eriksen's dissertation research examines how two Danish authors, Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875) and Villy Sørensen (1929-2001), shared a mutual interest in pushing the boundaries of what is possible to articulate in language through the literary fairytale. Using methodologies from linguistic anthropology to contextualize their works within their contemporary language environments, Ms. Eriksen argues that these authors' experiments with language reveal an attitude of innovation in direct contrast to the traditionally restrictive nature of the fairytale genre linguistics. In 2015, Ms. Eriksen earned her MA in Viking and Medieval Norse Studies from the University of Iceland, and, in 2021, she became a Birgit Baldwin Fellow. She is currently a PhD candidate in Scandinavian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

**NIELSEN, Kristina from Southern Methodist University**

Postdoctoral Research Project, Music, Roskilde University

Utilizing ethnographic fieldwork, musical analysis, and archival research, Dr. Nielsen plans to examine how state-produced Danish children's music responds to the central paradoxes of belonging in Denmark. One such paradox is how children's music embraces a globalized sound while emphasizing monoculturalism and integration. Dr. Nielsen's project seeks to understand this developing paradox in light of Denmark's growing multicultural reality to examine the myths of Scandinavian homogeneity and the growing field of Scandinavian post-colonial studies. Dr. Nielsen obtained her PhD in Ethnomusicology at the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2017, and she is currently Assistant Professor of Musicology at Southern Methodist University.

**THERKILDSSEN, Nina from Cornell University**

Sabbatical Research Project, Biology, University of Copenhagen

Dr. Therkildsen intends to go to the University of Copenhagen's Globe Institute to begin her sabbatical research on the potential role of epigenetics—chemical modifications of DNA molecules that can alter gene expression without altering the DNA sequence—in the adaptive evolution of the fish species Atlantic silverside (*Menidia menidia*). While in Copenhagen, Dr. Therkildsen plans to collaborate with additional experts using epigenetic analysis techniques as well as foster connections with other Danish researchers. She obtained her MS in Biology at the University of Copenhagen in 2005 and her PhD in Population Genetics at the Technical University of Denmark in 2012. In 2017, she was awarded a Cornell Center for Vertebrate Genomics Seed Grant, and she is currently Assistant Professor at the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at Cornell University.

**TO FINLAND**

**MARKOWITZ, Fred from Northern Illinois University**

Postdoctoral Research Project, Sociology, University of Helsinki, Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy

Building on research conducted during his 2021 Fulbright, Dr. Markowitz will investigate macro and micro-level processes associated with mental illness and crime in Finland. Using data from Finnish municipalities, he will examine community-level relationships that exist between “hidden” and “non-hidden” homelessness and crime rates, along with adolescent mental health problems and the risk of delinquency, and mental illness outcomes that increase the risk for criminal offense. He hopes that his research will elucidate the processes surrounding mental illness and criminal offending and provide strategies for recovery and community safety both in Finland and the US. He received his PhD in Sociology from State University of New

York at Albany, and he is currently Professor of Sociology at Northern Illinois University.

**MONSEAU, Susanna from The College of New Jersey**

Sabbatical Research Project, Business, Turku University of Applied Sciences

In collaboration with Dr. Kaisa Sorsa at Turku University of Applied Sciences, Professor Monseau is preparing a field-researched business case study of a small, traditional Finnish company, Ahlskog Tannery. This case study will be used to examine how small companies are affected by two new EU laws on supply chain sustainability. Using her research expertise in comparing European and US regulations of the textiles and fashion sectors, Professor Monseau hopes that this project will demonstrate how laws impact sustainability and how companies use legal strategies in their operations. She is currently Professor of Marketing and Interdisciplinary Business at The College of New Jersey, and she is the recipient of the 2022-23 Fulbright-Turku UAS Scholar Award.

**TO ICELAND**

CSUKA, Joleen from Columbia University

Dissertation Research Project, Chemistry, University of Akureyri, Iceland

Ms. Csuka will go to Iceland to investigate microbial life in lava tubes, which are believed to be an important analog for Martian lava tubes. Using a multidisciplinary approach that combines biology, chemistry, and geology, her dissertation research project aims to identify and validate biosignatures from microbial life in lava tubes in the search for signs of extraterrestrial life. By retrieving microbial samples from different lava tube sites, analyzing their lipid profiles, and extracting DNA to perform sequencing analyses, Ms. Csuka hypothesizes that carotenoids and microbial lipids will be preserved and established as useful biosignatures in subterranean environments. She received her BA in Philosophy and French at New York University in 2011 and is currently a PhD candidate in Chemistry at Columbia University.

**ESSEX, Cameron from University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee**

Master's Thesis Research Project, Earth Science, University of Iceland

Cameron Essex will conduct their thesis fieldwork on glaciovolcanic edifices in the Northern Volcanic Zone in Iceland. Iceland is the ideal location for them to examine the interaction between glaciers and volcanoes due to the country's proliferation of both active volcanoes and large ice sheets. Under the supervision of Dr. Magnús Tumi at the University of Iceland, they will focus on four glaciovolcanic structures to observe and record tuya morphologies and rock types critical for deciphering paleo-environmental information through geological time that includes ice sheet locations, extents, and thicknesses. Such past ice sheet information provides valuable data for modeling and predicting future climate changes. They graduated with a degree in Geology from Illinois State University in 2022 and are currently an MS candidate in Geosciences at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

**GOETHEL, Christina from University of Maryland**

Postdoctoral Research Project, Biology, University of Akureyri

Dr. Goethel will study prokaryotic isolates that have been collected from sediments and bivalves in two regions of the Arctic—the Pacific Arctic and Iceland—and identify their traits and features. Building upon ongoing collaboration with the University of Akureyri, Dr. Goethel's project will provide insights into the lifestyles and roles of specific organisms within the sediment community, a community sensitive to the Arctic's rapidly changing thermal environments. Dr. Goethel received her PhD in Marine and Estuarine Environmental Science at the University of Maryland in 2021, and, in 2022, she became a Fulbright Ministry of Foreign Affairs Arctic Scholar in Iceland. Since then, she has worked as Assistant Research Scientist for the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.

**HECHTMAN, Julia from Northeastern University**

Creative Arts Project, Film, Fish Factory, Creative Centre of Stöðvarfjörður

Building upon work from her 2019 Fulbright at Lístaháskóli Íslands, Professor Hechtman will capture film

footage of place and atmosphere accompanied by voice-overs of local Icelandic people telling personal narratives. Entitled "Not Once," this project will result in a series of video vignettes that examine how both cultural and personal identities are informed in part by the surrounding landscape. While in Iceland for her ASF Fellowship, Professor Hectman will visit sites in Flæðareyri, Vopnafjörður, and Breiðafjörður to shoot footage for pre-recorded narratives as well as gather new audio recordings. Professor Hechtman obtained her MFA with an emphasis in photography, film, and video from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2001, and she is now Associate Chair of the Department of Art + Design at Northeastern University.

**LEVIN, Colin from Long Island University–Brooklyn**

Creative Arts Project, Music, Listaháskóli Íslands

To highlight material that has contributed to the formation of Iceland's contemporary musical landscape, Professor Levin will create a lecture-recital that consists of contemporary musical compositions and program notes that will be re-formatted as an academic article. Interviews will be conducted with present-day Icelandic composers, a newly revised version of Jórunn Viðar's final song "Gátur fyrir konunga" will be premiered, and in collaboration with composers Halldór Smárason and Hildigunnur Rúnarsdóttir, new vocal works will be created using contemporary Icelandic texts. Professor Levin received his PhD in Vocal Performance from Rutgers University in 2012, and he is currently Associate Professor of Music at Long Island University: Brooklyn.

**WATERS, Timothy from University of California, Berkeley**

Dissertation Research Project, Languages and Literatures, The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies

Mr. Waters' dissertation research project explores the configuration of imaginary spaces in Old Norse mythology and literature, focusing on the written texts from the Eddaic and Scaldic corpora. In particular, he proposes a new methodology that encourages a narratological approach to deciphering the various figures, beings, objects, and other phenomena that create mythological space in the imaginations of its audience. By working with the collections of the Árni Magnússon Institute in Reykjavik, Mr. Waters will access vital texts as physical artifacts while also collaborating with leading world scholars in Old Norse literature. Mr. Waters obtained his BA and MA in Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic from the University of Cambridge, and he is currently a PhD candidate in Scandinavian Studies and Medieval Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

**WEEDOP, Daison from University of Maine**

Master's Thesis Research Project, Biology, Hólar University

From a volcanic spring-fed cave pond near Lake Mývatn, Mr. Weedop will sample Arctic Charr (*Salvelinus alpinus*), major prey, and other contributors to the ecosystem during multiple seasons to create a seasonal food web that incorporates individual fish morphology. The objectives of his thesis research project are to understand seasonal variation in the food webs of the system and to investigate how anatomical variation within the charr population relates to the resultant food web. He hopes that the outcomes of this project will contribute toward a deeper understanding of the connection between ecology and diversity within Arctic Charr populations. Mr. Weedop obtained his BS in Biology from Utah State University in 2020, and he is currently an MS candidate in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Maine.

**TO NORWAY**

**BAUMANN, Hans from South Pasadena, CA**

Creative Arts Project, Arts (Performing Arts, Visual Arts), University of Stavanger

Building upon previous research during his 2022 Green Transitions Fellowship, Mr. Baumann will begin an environmental art project that will document the complex ethics of a "green" energy transition in Norway, specifically the role of oil in realizing a post-fossil future. To do this, he will document specific sites related to Norway's Paris Climate Accords commitments, conduct archival research on fossil capitalism's manifestation in Norwegian culture, develop public programming with the University of Stavanger, and

finally produce and exhibit his mixed-media art installation and multi-channel art film created in response to this research. Mr. Baumann obtained his MLA from Harvard University in 2011, and has, most recently, won a 2019 NEA Visual Arts Project Grant and a 2021 Getty Foundation's Pacific Standard Time Research Grant.

**SCHRAGE, Kharis from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Massachusetts Institute of Technology**  
Dissertation Research Project, Biology, Akvaplan-Niva

Ms. Schrage's dissertation research focuses on the early-life history stages of polar benthic invertebrates in a changing climate, specifically in the Arctic. Accordingly, her dissertation research project will gather data on the early-life history stages of benthic invertebrates in Kongsfjorden (Svalbard, Norway). By collecting samples and determining the presence of larvae, settlement success, and post-settlement mortality of hard bottom feeders, Ms. Schrage will contribute data to a better understanding of polar community structure and early life history ecology that can help inform the local implications of climate change in polar regions. Ms. Schrage obtained her BS in Biology at The College of William and Mary in 2017, and she is now a PhD candidate in a joint program in Oceanography at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and MIT.

## TO SWEDEN

**EISENMAN, Theodore from University of Massachusetts–Amherst**

Postdoctoral Research Project, Landscape Architecture, Lund University and Nature-Based Solutions Institute

Dr. Eisenman will go to Lund University's Department of Architecture and Built Environment to conduct international comparative research on urban greening. Dr. Eisenman's methodology will entail gathering interviews with local arborists and municipal leaders, interviews with residents, analysis of tree planting programs, and direct participation in arboricultural training to establish best practices for urban tree initiatives. In 2015, Dr. Eisenman received his PhD in City and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania and became a 2015 Andrew W. Mellon Fellow. He is currently Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

**FRIEBERG, Annika from San Diego State University**

Sabbatical Research Project, History, Lund University

Dr. Friberg's research takes her to Malmö and Lund, Sweden, where she will undertake oral history interviews and archival research for a book chapter on Swedish support for the 1980s Polish Solidarity movement. By adding a chapter on "Polish-Swedish activist transnational networks," Dr. Friberg will demonstrate how networks of labor activists, intellectuals, and Polish migrants in Sweden, provided a central function for the Polish opposition during the last decade and a half of communism in Eastern Europe. Dr. Friberg obtained her PhD in History at the University of North Carolina in 2008, and she is currently Associate Professor of History at San Diego State University.

**HARMON, Brad from Johns Hopkins University**

Dissertation Research Project, Languages and Literatures, Södertörn University

Mr. Harmon's dissertation research project brings together the history of science and environmental science to examine the literary ecopoetics of breath and air of breathing in German and Scandinavian poetry and poetics. Mr. Harmon contends that a refocused attention to both the inherent "trans-corporeality" of breathing and the relation of breathing to the atmosphere can help to bridge the longstanding divide between nature and culture and between humanistic and scientific inquiry. Mr. Harmon received his MA in Scandinavian Languages and Literature at the University of Washington-Seattle in 2020, and he is currently a PhD candidate in Modern Languages & Literature at Johns Hopkins University.

**MONZON, Michael from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey School of Graduate Studies**

Master's Thesis Research Project, Entomology, Umeå University's Arctic Centre and Environmental Archaeology Lab (MAL)

Expanding on research conducted during his 2022 Fulbright Sweden Open Research Award, Mr. Monzon's thesis research project proposes to study various groups of insects and freshwater diatoms to determine the ecological health of the area around the subarctic Lake Krigstjärn and the Abisko Scientific Research Station in Abisko, Sweden. Mr. Monzon intends to collect these insects through pitfall and baited traps and to analyze lake core sediments for diatom community assemblages and microplastics to elucidate how sensitive biological communities may change under the stressors of climate change while providing local stakeholders with actionable information. Mr. Monzon received his BS in Agricultural Science with a minor in Entomology at Rutgers University in 2014, and he is currently an MS candidate in Entomology at Rutgers University.

**NAIR, Priya from Stanford University**

Dissertation Research Project, Engineering, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

Ms. Nair intends to develop a new non-invasive framework for guiding coarctation of the aorta (CoA) clinical decision making, with the ability to predict the dynamics of blood flow while exercising. Under the supervision of Dr. Seraina Dual, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Signal Processing at KTH, Ms. Nair will develop compliant wall in vitro models to estimate pressure drop during exercise using a hybrid mock loop to collect data on patient-specific hemodynamics. Outcomes from this research will contribute to frameworks for non-invasive methods to improve the diagnosis and treatment of CoA. Ms. Nair received her BS in Biomedical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2020, was an NSF Graduate Research Fellow from 2020-23, and is currently a PhD candidate in Bioengineering at Stanford University.

**TEITELBAUM, Benjamin from University of Colorado Boulder**

Sabbatical Research Project, Anthropology, Karlstad University

Delving into European Islam and contemporary far-right politics in the Nordic region, Dr. Teitelbaum's research project examines Tage Lindbom (1909-2001), a Swedish far-right, Muslim thinker involved in the rise of anti-modern, anti-liberal political ideology in Sweden. Vis-à-vis literature surveys and oral history interviews with Lindbom's surviving family members, Dr. Teitelbaum's research project seeks to contextualize the history of Islam in Sweden while also providing insight into the intellectual roots of the country's empowered ultra-conservative political scene. He received his PhD in Ethnomusicology at Brown University in 2013 and is currently Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology and International Affairs at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

**THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION**

The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) promotes firsthand exchange of intellectual and creative influence between the United States and the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. A publicly supported American nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, ASF has an extensive program of fellowships, grants, intern/trainee sponsorship, publishing, and cultural activities. Headquartered in New York City, ASF has members throughout the United States, and alumni and donors worldwide.