

CFP: Dimensions of Diversity in Norden

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While the Nordic populations historically have been more diverse than many recognize, this diversity has acquired visibility and some new dimensions since the 1960s. There is general consensus that Nordic countries have become more ethnically and culturally heterogeneous, particularly as a consequence of generous immigration policies and the gay rights movement; however, there is no consensus about the effects or value of these changes. On the one hand, *mangfoldighed* / *mangfold* / *mångfald* has become a key concept in public policy discourse in Denmark, Norway and Sweden, respectively; Finland has begun to consider the place of new minorities (as well as some very old ones, such as the Roma and the Sámi) in a political structure that had codified the rights of its Swedish minority at the nation's founding; and Iceland elected the world's first openly gay head of state in 2009. On the other hand, politicians hostile to immigrants, ethnic minorities and LGBT people have been voted into parliament in several Nordic countries, and in July 2011 the entire region was deeply shaken by a terror attack in Norway by a right-wing extremist who wanted to "save Europe" from multiculturalism. These events have been condemned by many people across political, ethnic, and national divides in the Nordic countries and spawned many public debates.

For this session, we invite proposals from scholars of various disciplinary orientations that examine the multifaceted concept of diversity in the Nordic countries and the ways in which this concept is negotiated and mediated in public discourse: political, commercial, artistic, cultural, virtual, educational, etc. In what ways does diversity figure—and how do certain ideologies operate—in such discourse? What new popular and intellectual dimensions (e.g. social media, regionalism, intersexuality) are challenging our prior understandings of diversity and changing how it operates in Norden today?

To submit a proposal to this panel, please send a titled, 200-word abstract that includes your name, institutional affiliation, 4–5 keywords, contact information, and any audiovisual needs, to sass.conference.2012@gmail.com by December 15, 2011.