

Swiss Association for North American Studies / Association Suisse des Etudes Nord-Américaines / Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Nordamerika Studien (SANAS)

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Activités scientifiques / Wissenschaftliche Tätigkeit

Journées scientifiques / Tagungen

This year's AGM and SANAS Conference took place at the University of Lausanne on November 2-3. The title of the SANAS Conference was "The Genre of Genres: A Conference on Form, Format, and Cultural Formations." It brought together more than thirty scholars from Switzerland, Europe, and the United States. The invited keynote speakers were Prof. Ronald Schleifer (University of Oklahoma), Prof. Deborah Madsen (University of Geneva, stepping in for Prof. Sarah Henzi, who could not attend the conference due to an emergency), and Prof. Linda Williams (UC, Berkeley).

The next SANAS AGM will take place in fall 2019 (29 November) at the University of Geneva as part of a one-day SANAS Symposium on "Changing the Narrative: Water and Aesthetic Activism."

Conférences / Vorträge

The SANAS Spring Reading Group met at the University of Bern on Wednesday, 28 March 2018. This year's guest was Prof. Christopher Looby (UCLA), who has published widely on an 18th and 19th-century American literature, print culture, and sexuality studies. He gave a talk titled "Toward a Theory of Literary Sexuality", followed by discussion.

Publications / Publikationen

The SANAS Newsletter, which is published twice a year and compiled by PD Dr. Julia Straub, was distributed electronically to all members in spring and fall. The Spring Newsletter included contact information for all SANAS members and a report of members' activities in the preceding calendar year.

Relations internationales / Internationale Beziehungen

The Board of the European Association for American Studies (EAAS) met in London in April. Next year's Board Meeting will take place in Thessaloniki.

Relations publiques / Öffentlichkeitsarbeit

Information for SANAS members is published twice per year in our Association's Newsletter. E-mails are circulated regularly via the Association's mailing list. Information concerning SANAS is also published in the EAAS Newsletter, the DGfA Newsletter and on the International section of the ASA website. SANAS is also represented on the Internet as well as on Facebook.

Koordination, Planung / Coordination, planification

The SANAS Board met on November 2. The SANAS AGM was held on November 3. We welcomed eight new members to our Association. Two new Board members were elected, taking over from the outgoing Board members Dr. Ridvan Askin (Treasurer & SAGW Delegate) and Dr. Boris Vejdovsky (EAAS Delegate). The SANAS Board consists of: Prof. Dr. Philipp Schweighauser (President, 2016-2020), PD Dr. Julia Straub (Secretary, 2016-2020), Dr. Scott Loren (Treasurer & SAGW Delegate, 2018-2022) and Cécile Heim, M.A., (EAAS Delegate, 2018-2022).

Ausbildung, Information / Formation, information

The Biennial SANAS Conference, the SANAS Spring Reading Group, and the SANAS mailing list are instrumental in integrating graduate students in American Studies into the scientific community. To further reach out to SANAS members, the SANAS Facebook page is continually updated. This year, the new "U.S. Embassy SANAS Travel Award" was awarded for the third time. It is designed to encourage cultural and academic exchanges between Switzerland and the United States. The award is given to a student at a Swiss university with the strongest proposal for a one-week visit to the United States that may involve a combination of academic activities or more general cultural experiences. This year's award was given to Ms. Ania Mauruschat, a PhD candidate from the University of Basel, who works on auditive culture and sound studies and traveled to the US for her research on US-American radio stations. She was able to interview a number of professionals working in broadcasting and podcasting.

There were no applications for the SANAS Research Award this year.

SANAS supported junior SANAS members who organized the 15th Annual Graduate Conference of the Young Scholars' Forum of the Association for Canadian Studies in German-Speaking Countries: "Witnessing Resurgence: Self-Determination and Allyship." This conference took place at the University of Bern on June 29-July 1st, 2018.

Administration / Activités administratives

The Secretary, PD Dr. Julia Straub, compiled the Fall and Spring Newsletters, administered the SANAS mailing list, kept membership records, and regularly updated the SANAS Website.