ACSIM – Annual Report 2012

GENERAL INFORMATION

ACSIM – Advanced Cultural Studies Institute of Sweden – is a national centre for transnational cultural studies. It has been established by Linköping University in order to develop advanced research and higher education in the field of interdisciplinary cultural studies in Sweden. It serves as a national resource for exchange between disciplines, universities, countries and intellectual currents, striving to develop diversified networking between Swedish cultural research and the transnational field of cultural studies. ACSIM was established early in 2002 as an independent unit within Linköping University. The centre is administratively connected to the Department for Studies of Social Change and Culture (ISAK). Its linking, driving and quality raising tasks are realized through programs for visiting scholars, research, publications, seminars, conferences, PhD courses and various forms of networking. The national character of ACSIM is guaranteed by a board of members chosen by all Swedish universities and a chair appointed by the Vice-Chancellor of Linköping University.

Board, administration and staff

ACSIM is headed by a board consisting of one member chosen by each Swedish university and a chair appointed by the rector of Linköping University. The board convened in May 2012 in conjunction with the 10-year jubilee of ACSIM. The mandate of the board would have expired at the end of 2011 but to ensure stability during the coming period of transition the board decided to prolong the mandate for all board members with one year, until the end of 2012. The board had the following members in 2012:

- **Chair:** Professor and former Director of the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation (Riksbankens Jubileumsfond) Dan Brändström (2007-)
- **Göteborg University:** Professor of Musicology Alf Björnberg (2006-); deputy Professor of Literature Lisbeth Larsson (2003-).
- **Karlstad University:** Professor of Media and Communication Studies André Jansson (2009-)
- **Linköping University:** Professor at the department of Culture Studies Bengt Erik Eriksson (2009-)
- **Lund University:** Professor at the Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences Tom O’Dell (2009-)
- **Mid Sweden University:** Associate Professor of English Anders Olsson (2006-).
- **Stockholm University:** Associate Professor of Ethnology Lotten Gustafsson Reinius (2009-)
- **Umeå University:** Professor of Ethnology Brita Lundgren; deputy member Associate Professor of Literature Anders Öhman (2006-).
In January 2010 Johan Fornäs left his position as professor at Linköping University for a new job at Södertörn University College, but he stayed on as the director of ACSIS and was employed by ACSIS on 10 % during 2011 and the first half of 2012 to uphold the director's most crucial obligations. The first of July 2012 he was succeeded as the director by professor at Linköping University Anders Ekström.

In 2012 Martin Fredriksson was on leave from his position as coordinator on ACSIS. Johanna Dahlin and Sofia Lindström substituted him on 20 % each from January to May 2012. Martin Fredriksson upheld his responsibilities as editor for Culture Unbound on 20 % throughout the year.

**Finances**

For 2012 the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Linköping University contributed an annual amount of 674 000 SEK to ACSIS. Apart from general funding, this also included directed funding for the Local Task to stimulate and coordinate information about cultural research at Linköping University, and for the publication of the journal *Culture Unbound*. In addition, six universities represented in ACSIS board contributed with the total amount of 375 000 SEK (Göteborg 100 000, Karlstad 50 000, Linnéuniversitetet 100 000, Lund 50 000, Umeå 25 000 and Örebro 50 000).

The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT) granted 268 000 to finance the exchange project “Culturalisation and Globalisation” with Institute for Culture and Society (ICS) at the University of Western Sydney (former Centre for Cultural Research (CCR)).

Over the year ACSIS thus received 674 000 SEK from Linköping University, 375 000 SEK from other universities and 268 000 SEK in external funding.

**Visiting Scholars**

ACIS has a programme for visiting scholars that allows distinguished and innovative researchers to take active part in its intellectual and networking activities, interplaying with on-going research, courses, seminars and workshops, often in co-operation with other university units. Visiting scholars may be of three kinds: visiting professors, postdocs and PhD students. These often have their own external funding, but in some cases ACSIS has been able to raise funding to support such visits. ACSIS offers office space with great opportunities to take part in the expanding local environment for cultural research, as well as access to its wide national and international networks.

As a part of the project Culturalisation and Globalisation: a four-year STINT-funded exchange program between ACSIS/ Tema Q and ICS (formerly CCR) at the University of Western Sydney was visited by professors Ien Ang and David Rowe, and Dr. James Arvanitakis one week in may, while Dr. Tim Winter and the PhD-students Kearrin Simms and Louise Ryan stayed for more extended visits before and after the workshop.
During the autumn semester 2012 ACSIS hosted Christoffer Åhlman, PhD-student at Åbo Akademi.

**Seminars**

The project Culturalisation and Globalisation: a four-year STINT-funded exchange program between ACSIS/ Tema Q and ICS (formerly CCR) at the University of Western Sydney was completed in May 2012 with a concluding workshop in Norrköping themed *Cultures, Histories, Institutions: Knowledge Practices and Professional Encounters*. Participants from Sydney were James Arvanitakis, Ien Ang, David Rowe, Tim Winter, Kearrin Simms and Louise Ryan. Additional presentations were made by Erik Pettersson, Konstantin Economou, Tobias Harding, and Emma Eldelin. Peter Aronsson, Anders Ekström, Libby Robin and Svante Beckman chaired the discussions.

In cooperation with the Department of General History, Åbo University and the Department of History of Science and Ideas at Uppsala university, ACSIS arranged a workshop called "New Materialities in Exhibition Studies" in Uppsala 22–23 of August. Papers were presented by researchers from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden.

**ACISIS 10th Anniversary**

In May 2012 ACSIS celebrated 10 years with a dinner held in conjunction with the concluding workshop of the STINT-exchange and the May board meeting. To further mark the 10 years since the founding of ACSIS a special anniversary report was published in May 2012.

**Information and Publications**

Apart from keeping a website ACSIS also hosts a mailing list for cultural research in Sweden which serves as an important forum for a great variety of upcoming events. Since 2009 ACSIS has also had a Facebook group that provides information on coming ACSIS events to its more than 200 members. In 2011 this was also complemented by a Twitter identity.

The journal *Culture Unbound*, published by ACSIS, Tema Q and Swedish Cultural Policy Observatory (SweCult), has attracted many new authors over the year.

The findings from the project Culturalisation and Globalisation were published in two special issues of *Culture Unbound* (Vol. 4) and the Australian edition of *Global Media Journal* (Vol. 6:1) released in May and November 2012.

The journal *Culture Unbound*, published by ACSIS, Tema Q and Swedish Cultural Policy Observatory (SweCult), released four thematic issues over the year. Apart from the above mentioned issue on “Culturalisation at an Australian-Swedish Crossroads”, *Culture Unbound* also discussed themes such as “Shanghai Modern: The Future of Microcosm?”, Self-Care Translated into Practice” and “Objectification, Measurement and Standardization”. The journal published 35 articles, encompassing more than 700 pages, and had a total of approximately 35000 visitors over the year. In late 2012 *Culture Unbound* also secured financial support from Vetenskapsrådet (VR) and Nordiska Samarbetsnämnden för humanistisk och samhällsvetenskaplig forsknin (NOS-HS) for the coming three years.
In late 2012 a special issue of Kulturella perspektiv was published, edited by Anders Ekström and with contributions from a wide range of scholars across Sweden. The special issue was a follow up of the initiative Kulturstudier i Sverige, which among other thing resulted in a book with the same name in 2007, mapping the diverse landscape of Swedish cultural research.