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## AABS at 50 / Baltic Countries at 100 / Baltic Studies Today

Liisi Esse, PhD

Associate Curator for Estonian and Baltic  
 Studies, Stanford University Libraries  
 2016-2018 AABS VP for Conferences

The 2018 AABS conference, held at Stanford University 1-3 June, celebrated two important milestones — the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies and the 100th anniversary of independence for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The three-day program also highlighted the breadth and depth of Baltic studies today, featuring 124 panels, roundtable discussions, and workshops — as well as keynote talks, evening receptions, film screenings, literary readings, and exhibits. In total, 473 presenter, including 125 students, and more than 200 members of the general public attended the conference.

The keynote lectures by leading historians and policy analysts provided historical and contemporary contexts of the Baltic countries and Baltic studies. The conference's first keynote talk, "Russian and East European Studies and Baltic Studies: A Historical Exploration," was delivered by renowned Stanford historian Dr. Norman Naimark (see enclosed booklet). The opening keynote was followed by a roundtable on "Baltic Exceptionalism?", which featured the three current or for-

mer Baltic foreign ministers and Dr. Anna Grzymala-Busse discussing the role of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in the world today. The conference's official opening ceremony on the first evening included a keynote talk, "The Baltic States and Human Rights in Europe: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," by Latvian-American political scientist and former Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Dr. Nils Muižnieks. The second day of the conference featured a keynote talk, "50 Years of Transforming Geopolitics and Baltic Studies," delivered by Dr. Agnia Grigas, an energy and political risk expert specializing in Russia, Eastern Europe, and the post-Soviet space. The final keynote talk, "The Baltic States at 100: The State Continuity Claim in International Law and in Relations with Russia," was given by Dr. Lauri Mälksoo, a renowned specialist on the international legal status of the Baltic countries and Russia's concept of international law.

Cultural programming was integrated throughout the conference. The Open-Air Celebration of Baltic Culture and Reception, an evening program held on a lawn outside the Green Library, featured musical and dance performances by several Baltic and American groups (The Mägi Ensemble, Tiltas, Genys,

BALTIC STUDIES TODAY pg. 2



Panelists open "Masters of Our Own Homes: Estonia at 100" exhibit, a collaboration between Stanford Libraries and the Estonian Museum of Occupations | Photo: Keith Uyeda, Stanford University

and Völukeeled). The event was MC'd by James Tusty and Heather MacLaughlin-Garbes. A literary reading by three prominent writers, Ruta Sepetys, Julija Sukys, and Inara Verzemnieks, on "Stories of Exile, Reckoning, and Hope" took place on the second day. The conference concluded with a screening of the recently released feature film "Ashes in the Snow" (2018). The film is based on the New York Times best-selling novel, "Between Shades of Gray," written by Carnegie Medal-winning author Ruta Sepetys. The film is produced and directed by Marius Markevicius, who previously directed the award-winning documentary "The Other Dream Team" (2012). The screening of the film was followed by a Q&A session with Marius Markevicius and Ruta Sepetys.

During the conference, two major Baltic exhibits were displayed on the Stanford University campus. "The Baltic Way: History and Culture in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania 1918–2018," on display in Cecil H. Green Library, drew on materials in the Stanford Libraries and Hoover Institution Library and Archives collections to explain the complicated history of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in the 20th century and to consider their prospects and challenges in the 21st. A large traveling exhibit produced by the Estonian Museum of Occupations, "Masters of Our Own Homes: Estonia at 100," was set up in the



The Mägi Ensemble performs at an evening reception. | Photo: Keith Uyeda, Stanford University

Main Pavilion of the Stanford Shopping Center. The exhibit's aim is to commemorate a century since the founding of the Republic of Estonia and to introduce its history, culture, innovation, and, most of all, its people, to the wider world. The exhibit was officially opened on June 2 with a roundtable, "No Boundaries: An Oral History Project about Estonia's Transformation in the Digital Age," featuring Rainer Sternfeld, Andrus Viirg, Ott Kaukver, Sten Tamkivi, and Toomas Hendrik Ilves.

The conference's academic sessions — panels, roundtables, and workshops — aimed to showcase the latest achievements in Baltic studies. The sessions looked into

the past of the Baltic countries, focusing on their history, memory, and identity, and also to present and future opportunities and challenges, such as issues related to disinformation, regional security, and political instability. Several sessions were dedicated to the newest developments in digital humanities and in the field of libraries, museums, and archives. "Fake News, Post-Truth, and the Baltic Public," "Baltic Societies, Migration, and Freedom of Religion," "Trauma and Insight: Using Baltic Literature to Teach and Transform," and "E-society and the E-state in the Nordic-Baltic Region" were but a few of the 124 academic sessions that were held at the conference.

The conference also featured several professional development sessions. Matthew Kott, editor of the Journal of Baltic Studies, discussed recent trends in current academic journal publishing during a breakfast session on "Interdisciplinary in Area Studies and the Changing Role of the Journal of Baltic Studies." He spoke to the role of interdisciplinary journals like JBS in reinforcing or challenging these trends. A panel of recipients of Fulbright fellowships to the Baltic countries shared their advice on applying for a Fulbright, as well as their experience doing research in the three countries. A graduate student lunch, "How to Find One's Place in Academia and Beyond Post-Graduation," featured current graduate students and recent PhDs talking about their experience looking for jobs as a Baltic specialist. A roundtable on "AABS and



Former Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Nils Muižnieks gives a keynote talk at the AABS conference at Stanford University. | Photo: Keith Uyeda, Stanford University



# 2019 AABS Grant & Fellowship Awards

Research grants for Emerging Scholars foster the development of Baltic Studies by supporting new and ongoing research projects.

**Laura Dean**, Millikin University: "Gender Dynamics Both Feminist and Anti-Feminist in Latvian Politics"

**Catherine Gibson**, European University Institute: "Mapping Religious Communities in the Baltic Provinces of the Russian Empire"

**Eleonory Gilburd**, University of Chicago: "Weary Sun: Tango in Eastern Europe and Soviet Russia"

The Jānis Grundmanis Postgraduate Fellowship, established in the memory of Dr. Jānis Grundmanis, is an annual fellowship for graduate study in the United States.

**Renāte Prancane**, Hunter College

Dissertation grants support doctoral dissertation research and write-up in any field of Baltic Studies.

**Kristina Joekalda**, Estonian Academy of Arts: "Local and National in the 19th Century Baltic Heritage Discourse"

**Alexandra Sukalo**, Stanford University: "Surveillance's Double-edged Sword: Intelligence and Identities in the Soviet Republics, 1918-1953"

The Aina Birnitis Fellowship supports a year of research and writing to help advanced graduate students in the humanities in the last year of Ph.D. dissertation writing. The fellowship is supported by a bequest of Aina Birnitis, a librarian by profession living in Carlton, a suburb of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

**Kristīne Bekere**, Latvian Academy of Sciences, Baltic Strategic Studies Centre: "Activities of Latvian Exiles to Sustain the Idea of Independence of Latvia"



Emerging Scholars grant recipients (from top left):  
Laura Dean, Catherine Gibson, Eleonory Gilburd

Jānis Grundmanis Postgraduate Fellowship recipient  
(top right): Renāte Prancane

Dissertation grant recipients (from bottom left):  
Kristina Joekalda, Alexandra Sukalo

Aina Birnitis Fellowship recipient (bottom right):  
Kristīne Bekere

## — Baltic Studies Today (cont. pg. 2)

Graduate Student Concerns: Grants, Publishing, Career Opportunities" featured advice in these areas and also asked how AABS can better serve graduate students.

This year's conference was hosted by Stanford University Libraries. The organizers, led by Liisi Esse, AABS Vice President for Conferences, are extremely grateful to everyone who helped turn this conference into a success, especially the program committee consisting of 15 division chairs and 47 co-chairs who put together the conference's academic program and the group of on-site volunteers who helped with the conference logistics.

SEE PAGES 8, 9 & 10 FOR MORE PHOTOS



Lithuanian folk dancers from the group Tiltas perform at the Open-Air Celebration of Baltic Culture and Reception during the AABS conference at Stanford University. | Photo: Keith Uyeda, Stanford University



# 8 Great Weeks of Baltic Languages and Culture

Liina-Ly Roos, PhD  
*Estonian language instructor*

For the third year in a row, Indiana University Summer Language Workshop hosted the Baltic Summer Language Institute (BALSSI), providing our students with a welcoming and intellectually stimulating community. The 2018 BALSSI students were very motivated learners of Estonian and Lithuanian. The Latvian course was unfortunately not offered due to low enrollments. The Estonian class had three students, who are all planning to incorporate their knowledge of Estonian language and culture in their graduate and post-graduate research. The Lithuanian class had five students, combining those who are using Lithuanian language for their graduate research and students learning more about their heritage. Their fields of specialization included education, history, and literature.

In addition to the rigorous and intensive study of language (four hours every weekday for eight weeks), we screened six films in our Baltic film series, representing different topics and visual styles of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian cinema. Our inspiring guest lecturers included Dr. Piibi-Kai Kivik discussing her research on Estonian language and identity and Dr. Liina-Ly Roos providing an introduction to Baltic cinema. Professor Kestutis Nakas's visit was one of the highlights. In addition to teaching at Roosevelt University in Chicago, Nakas is a playwright, author, director and performer. He shared entertaining and thought-provoking experiences on growing up in the U.S. Lithuanian diaspora in his talk "Hypothetical Heritage: Creating a Mythic Lithuania in Diaspora." The summer program also featured a roundtable with Dr. Toivo Raun and Dr. Piibi-Kai Kivik speaking on the state of the field of Baltic studies.

We were also happy to provide students with several opportunities to enjoy Baltic culture and languages in relaxed and immersive settings. Some of our students participated in the Indianapolis



BALSSI students and instructors.

Estonian Society's Midsummer celebration. The Estonian-Latvian folk band, Hedgehogs, who are based in Indianapolis, performed a concert that included a wide selection of Baltic folk instruments and involved the audience in playing, as well! The program ended with a visit of 21 high school students from all three Baltic countries in Bloomington as part of the Youth Leadership Program. It was wonderful to see that, after only eight weeks of language learning, the BALSSI students were already able to interact on a basic level with native speakers over lunch.

Summer 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of BALSSI and we will celebrate it with a symposium in mid-July. We invite alumni and previous instructors to join the celebration and share their current research with us at BALSSI 2019 at the Indiana University Summer Language Workshop. Some comments from students:

"We learned a lot about Estonia this summer, from history and etymology to food, jokes and popular music. My favorite thing was the language itself, full of surprises and delicious new words. Watching thoughtfully chosen films from all three Baltic countries, offered additional benefit and pleasure. Many thanks to the Baltic Studies Summer Institute for supporting these courses!"

"I was incredibly thankful for the chance to begin graduate-level learning of Lithuanian with BALSSI. The program not only offered in-class instruction but gave weekly opportunities to experience the culture of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. From films to folk songs to cooking class, we had the opportunity to integrate what we were learning with the people and the places at the center of the language. I feel certain that I have a more grounded understanding of the language, the people, and the area as a whole. The program is very engaging and the small classroom structure allowed me to ask questions and learn at a pace that was always pushing me, though never leaving me behind."

To see more about the recent BALSSI courses and to be part of the network, visit our Facebook page @BalticStudiesSLI



BALSSI students making Baltic sandwiches and getting ready for a cultural showcase, July 5, 2018.



## New membership rates for 2019-2020

AABS membership rates will be slightly increased as of the 2019-2020 membership year, the first increase in more than 10 years.

Membership dues support AABS awards such as dissertation, emerging scholar and graduate student conference travel grants. Dues also pay the mailing costs for member copies of the *Journal of Baltic Studies*, as well as the cost of the association's administration. The new dues rates will go into effect as of July 1, 2019.

### 2019-2020 rates

**Student:** \$25.00

**Emeritus (retired):** \$35.00

**Regular:** \$70.00 – new rate

**Family (2 memberships; one JBS subscription):** \$75.00 – new rate

**Baltic Membership:** \$35.00 – new rate

*(Persons whose current primary affiliation is at an academic institution in Estonia, Latvia, or Lithuania, Russia or CIS may join AABS at the Baltic membership rate)*

**Sponsor:** \$100.00

**Patron:** \$500.00

**Life:** \$2,000.00

**Institutional membership:** \$100.00

*(Institutions and organizations may receive a subscription to the *Journal of Baltic Studies* directly through AABS)*



## Australasian Chapter 19th Conference: 100th Anniversary of Baltic Independence

AABS Australasia Committee:

D. Skerrett, PhD (Brisbane), President  
U. Ozoliņš, PhD (Melbourne), Treasurer  
& E. Reilly, PhD (Geelong)

Fifteen delegates and another six attendees — including four delegates from Estonia and India — gathered at the Waterfront Campus of Deakin University, Geelong, Australia, on a clear and warm weekend October 13-14, 2018.

Renowned historian, Prof. Sheila Fitzpatrick of Sydney University, gave the plenary address on the story of Latvian displaced persons in Europe. She is the author of “Mischka’s War, On Stalin’s Team, The Russian Revolution,” and other books on 20th century Russia.

A diaspora studies panel featured Eve Wicks-Puodžiūnaitė’s presentation on her memorial project, “In Sunshine and Shadow,” a publication resulting from her doctoral research. Independent scholars, Marija Perejma and Ilse Matthews, focused on Latvian post-war experience in Adelaide.

A panel on contemporary politics included Dr. Uldis Ozoliņš, University of Western Sydney, who spoke to the timely topic “Is Latvia the Weak Link?,” analyzing the results and reporting of the previous weekend’s elections.

Dr. Delaney Skerrett, Honorary Consul for Estonia, spoke on Estonian language policy in the context of evolving arguments and demographics in Estonia, especially in the Narva district. Prof. Mart Susi, who heads law studies at Tallinn University and is engaged as a legal expert by the EU Commission, spoke on “Protecting Freedom of Expression in New Media,” pointing to several new rulings that may have

profound legal implications for all users of social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

University of Washington PhD candidate Francesca Jūratė Sasnaitis led the literature panel by discussing her current research, with readings from her memoir “Summerlands.” Dr. Gražina Pranauskas spoke on her recent publication, “Lietuvybė Down Under,” highlighting aspects of her story of emigration and arrival in a new land. Dr. E. Reilly spoke about the genesis and publication of the literary journal *Azuria*, and launched the 8th edition, created especially for the centennial celebrations.

Dr. Roman Zaroff, formerly of the University of Queensland, continued his exploration of the debates concerning the emergence of the Balts, a topic still hotly contested between archaeologists, geneticists and historians. Jura Reilly, author of “A Wolf at Our Door” and “Circle of Amber,” spoke on the role of book smugglers (*knygnešiai*) in Lithuania’s struggle for independence, and how she used her the experiences of her great-grandfather, Tomas Žičkis, as the basis for her new novel, “Sylvia’s Book Smuggler.”

The final talks addressed issues in contemporary Estonia. Assist. Prof. Mahima Thakur compared factors in assessing business leadership in Estonia and India, while her doctoral student Arpita Manchanda spoke about her investigations into the treatment of chronic illness. To close the conference, Mari-Ann Susi, cofounder of the Estonian Institute of Humanities (*Humanitaarinstitut*), examined problems surrounding the recognition of animals as holders of fundamental rights within European judicial practice and the media.



Participants of the AABS Australasian Chapter 19th conference at a collegial dinner.



# Comments: Learned Societies and the ACLS, 2016 AABS Conference

David E. Barclay, PhD

*Executive Director, German Studies Association*

*As smaller academic associations with a regional focus, AABS and the German Studies Association (GSA) share organizational similarities. We invited David Barclay to participate on a roundtable at our 2016 conference. Both AABS and GSA are constituent members of the American Council of Learned Societies.*

The GSA now comprises a bit more than 2,400 members; we've grown from about 1,300 in the past decade. About 400 are from more than two dozen countries overseas, and about 200 are graduate students. It is perhaps the most important and certainly the largest inter- and multidisciplinary organization in the world devoted to the study of the entire German-speaking world in all its aspects. Its mission, of course, includes Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, which have been our primary focus so far. Until quite recently, we have not focused very much on German-speaking diaspora communities, including Baltic Germans, but I am hopeful that this can change.

Our 2016 annual conference will take place in San Diego, where we will observe the 40th anniversary of our founding as the Western Association for German Studies, or WAGS, in 1976. WAGS was originally intended to be a regional association of then-young assistant and associate professors in the Southwest and Rocky Mountain West who couldn't afford to attend conferences in the East. But in the years after 1976 it grew like Topsy, first attracting members in California and the Pacific Northwest, then the rest of North America and Europe. By 1983, it had become the German Studies Association, outgrowing its southwestern roots. GSA has been a member of the ACLS since 1992. The GSA benefits from ACLS membership in several ways that I think are also pertinent to the AABS.

1) The ACLS has indeed become more international, with a significant number of scholarly societies that represent area studies. These include the AABS, the GSA, and the Society for the Advance-

ment of Scandinavian Studies, of course, but also such groups as the Latin American Studies Association; the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies; the Middle East Studies Association; the Association for Asian Studies; and the African Studies Association.

2) Particularly important has been the opportunity to work collaboratively with a variety of ACLS societies, and these opportunities are increasing. In the relatively recent past, the GSA has cooperated with the African Studies Association and the ASEES by sending teams of members to each other's conferences. And, as we see at this conference, Olavi Arens and I have attended each other's meetings as well. In 2017, for the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the GSA hoped to collaborate with the Society for Church History, the Society for Biblical Literature, and the Sixteenth-Century Society and Conference by sending groups of our members to each other's conferences, to engage in sustained scholarly dialogue across the boundaries of our societies, and, we hope, to encourage further scholarly networking that could lead to publications of various kinds.

3) The ACLS fellowship programs have played a vital role in supporting all the humanities and social sciences. This has been especially important for us as we continue to focus many of our own activities on Nachwuchsförderung [professional development].

4) Obviously, we are extremely concerned about challenges to German-language programs across the United States, and of course we are constantly worried about the plight of the humanities more generally. Accordingly, and with the encouragement of the ACLS, we are active members of the National Humanities Alliance, which lobbies actively on Capitol Hill on behalf of Federal humanities funding, especially for the NEH, though we've used the occasion of our own Capitol Hill lobbying to argue, as well, on behalf of Title VI and Fulbright, both of which continue to be under rather massive threat.

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## Introducing Liisi Esse, New AABS Administrative Executive Director

Liisi Esse works as associate curator for Estonian and Baltic Studies at Stanford University Libraries since 2013. As curator, her main responsibility is to develop Stanford's collection of Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, and Finnish material in all formats, including books, periodicals, manuscripts, and electronic resources. Liisi also runs various Baltic projects, including digitization projects, and organizes Baltic events and exhibits at Stanford. She assists and advises scholars and students interested in Baltic studies and collaborates with other organizations and institutions within and beyond Stanford in enhancing Baltic studies.

Liisi served as AABS' Vice President for Conferences from 2016–2018 and organized the 2018 AABS Conference at

Stanford University. She currently serves as reviews editor for the *Journal of Baltic Studies*. Liisi is a member of the ASEES Committee on Libraries and Information Resources and the Baltic Heritage Network.

Liisi earned her Ph.D. from the University of Tartu in 2016. Her doctoral dissertation, "Eesti sõdurid Esimeses maailmasõjas: sõjakogemus ja selle sõjajärgne tähendus" ("Estonian Soldiers in the First World War: The War Experience and its Post-War Meaning") relies on Estonian soldiers' letters, diaries, and memoirs, as well as materials of veterans' organizations, and analyzes various elements of the war experience of Estonian soldiers who served in the Russian Army during the First World



War. She has also written several articles on Estonian soldiers' war experience and ego-documents.



# Highlights of May 2018 Board Meeting, Stanford University

Mara Lazda, PhD

2016-2018 Director-at-Large

The biennial AABS conference provides an opportunity for the incoming and outgoing board members to meet in person, with the outgoing board members sharing their experiences and familiarizing the incoming members with the structure of the organization. At the May 31, 2018 meeting, the outgoing board focused on two initiatives that have been the subject of much discussion over the last two years.

The first was a clarification of AABS's stance on political advocacy. As reported in the last newsletter, a growing number of societies have been issuing public statements on policy issues (e.g. ASEES statement against racism and intolerance). Some AABS members have asked why the AABS did not issue a statement about Russia's invasion of Ukraine or the threats to close Central European University.

Academic Executive Director Olavi Arens and Director-at-Large Mara Lazda presented the results of their research on the AABS history of political advocacy and the positions of other learned societies. Arens pointed out that maintaining a non-political, non-partisan position has been a core principle since the founding of AABS following the first Baltic Studies conference in 1968. Even during the Baltic campaigns for independence in the 1990s, AABS refrained from issuing public statements. Further, Arens pointed out, there are other options for members and organizations to support advocacy of AABS goals, such as working with the National Humanities Alliance and other academic associations.

Several board members expressed concerns about AABS including advocacy in its work. Some questioned whether AABS could claim to represent all of its members in any advocacy statement. Matthew Kott pointed out that the non-political stance long held by AABS was important in allowing scholars from the Soviet Union to participate in conferences prior to Baltic independence. Incoming treasurer Uģis Sprūdžs argued, however, that in and of itself the existence of AABS was an act of advocacy. Others noted that by remaining silent on educational budget cuts (such as to federal Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowships), AABS could be seen as not serving its members, especially graduate students and more ju-

nior members.

After this discussion, the board proceeded with a vote on three versions of an advocacy statement. The majority of the board voted in favor of AABS maintaining its position of not actively promoting advocacy, as outlined in the statement below:

*The mission of the AABS is to promote research and education in Baltic Studies by sponsoring meetings and conferences, supporting publications, sustaining a program of scholarships, grants, and prizes, and disseminating news of current interest in Baltic Studies. The association does not advocate on matters of public policy or issue public statements. The primary function of the AABS is to provide an open forum where scholars can present their views on all facets of inquiry connected to Baltic Studies. The association may partner with other learned societies and with universities on specific projects such as conferences and the furthering of education in relevant areas.*

The second point of action of this meeting was the launch of a book subvention grant. Several learned

societies have started book subvention programs in response to growing requests from publishers for authors to pay proof-reading and copy-editing fees. AABS also occasionally receives requests for financial support needed to publish a monograph. The board members voted in support of an AABS book subvention program. The program will prioritize support for monographs that are first books for authors, but will also consider other submissions.

The AABS board welcomes suggestions and questions from its members. Please contact the AABS office at [aabs@uw.edu](mailto:aabs@uw.edu).

The primary function of the AABS is to provide an open forum where scholars can present their views on all facets of inquiry connected to Baltic Studies.





# Treasurer's Report

Ugis Sprudz, CFA  
*Treasurer*

## Review of 2018

The value of the Association's investment portfolio increased by 4.2% over the 12 months from June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2018. In dollar terms, the net asset value changed from \$3,571,165.75 to \$3,728,232.12. This includes a withdrawal of \$75,284.59 to cover grant payments and operating expenses. Our money is 50% invested in equities and 50% in fixed income securities — inflation-protected U.S. Treasury bonds and short to intermediate maturity U.S. Treasuries. This is in keeping with the Association's long-term strategy of a balanced stock and bond investment portfolio.

The Association's asset portfolio produced a gross return (before withdrawals)

of \$232,350.96, which exceeded the budgeted amount of \$142,847 by 63%.

Membership dues and donations totaled \$37,936, 26% more than the budgeted amount of \$30,000. We were fortunate to receive an additional \$20,319 of donations in support of our 2018 conference at Stanford University. JBS revenue of \$28,521 exceeded budget by 10%.

Total expenses and allocations of \$209,792 were 6% over the budgeted amount of \$197,960. This is due to a higher grant award payout (grant award payments often cross fiscal years causing actuals to differ from budget).

## 2019 budget

The Association's board approved a budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Expenses are budgeted at \$197,000, essentially unchanged versus the previous

year. It is unlikely that our investment returns this year will be comparable to those in the past year and recent history, so it is possible that FY 2019 will end with a nominal budget shortfall. However, the Association has long operated with a substantial surplus, spending less than the earnings generated by its investment portfolio, so this is not a matter of concern. We have a considerable financial buffer we can tap to cover our obligations.

## Other matters

Peterson Sullivan, LLC completed an audit of the Association's financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Their finding was that our statements fairly represent the Association's financial position and cash flows and conform to generally accepted U.S. accounting principles.

## Photos from the 2018 AABS Conference at Stanford University



**Top right:** Ieva Ilves poses a question during former Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Nils Muižnieks' keynote talk, "The Baltic States and Human Rights in Europe: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," June 1, 2018.

**Top left:** AABS Vice President for Conferences Liisi Esse, Stanford University Librarian Michael Keller, Nils Muižnieks and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Latvia in Northern California Liga Hoy, June 1, 2018.

**Bottom:** Conference attendees listen during Nils Muižnieks keynote talk | Photos by Keith Uyeda





Top left: Agnia Grigas gives a keynote talk on “50 Years of Transforming Geopolitics and Baltic Studies,” June 2, 2018. | Courtesy photo

Top right: “Masters of Our Own Homes: Estonia at 100” exhibit | Keith Uyeda



Middle left: Visitors to “Masters of Our Own Homes: Estonia at 100” exhibit. | Keith Uyeda

Bottom left: Conference participants at a reception during the conference. | Keith Uyeda

Middle top right: Panel session presenters at the AABS Conference. | Courtesy photo

Middle bottom right: Panelists discuss Fulbright exchanges and experiences. | Courtesy photo

Bottom left: Mathew Kott presents on the Journal of Baltic Studies. | Courtesy photo





**Top:** Conference attendees relax at the Meyer Green Lawn during a reception and performance, "An Open-Air Celebration of Baltic Culture," June 2, 2018. | Keith Uyeda

**Middle:** Conference attendees visit during receptions at the conference. | Keith Uyeda

**Bottom:** Lithuanian dancers from "Genys" group pose for a photo. The group performed during the Conference reception. | Keith Uyeda



## Follow the AABS online:



<https://www.facebook.com/aabs.baltic.studies>



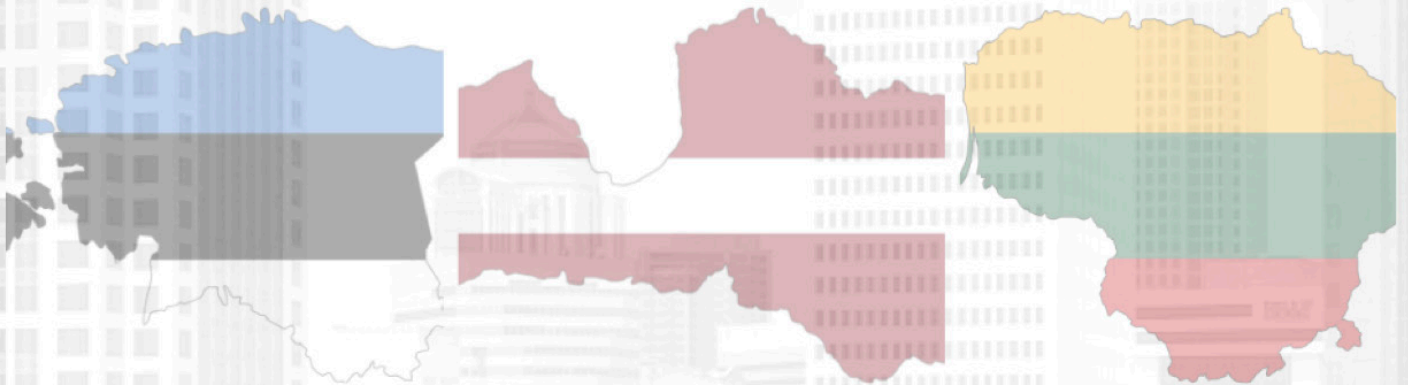
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association for  
the advancement  
of baltic studies  
<https://www.aabs-balticstudies.org>



MAY 28TH-30TH 2020

**NEW DIRECTIONS IN  
BALTIC STUDIES  
CHARLOTTE, NC (USA)**



You're invited to Charlotte, North Carolina, home to banking, barbecue, and next May, Baltic Studies! The 51st annual AABS conference will convene at Queens University, an idyllic liberal arts campus nestled in Charlotte's historic Myers Park neighborhood.

The event is hosted with institutional support from Wingate University. For questions, please email conference organizer Joseph Ellis at [\*\*j.ellis@wingate.edu\*\*](mailto:j.ellis@wingate.edu).

aabs





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**POSTMASTER: Address Correction Requested**

The Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS) promotes research and education in Baltic Studies by sponsoring meetings and conferences, supporting publications, sustaining a program of scholarships, grants, and prizes, and disseminating news of current interest in Baltic Studies. AABS membership is open to anyone wishing to support the scholarly goals of the Association. Persons joining AABS need not be engaged in scholarly work. AABS publishes the quarterly *Journal of Baltic Studies*. Subscription to the journal is included in membership dues. In addition, members receive AABS newsletters and reduced registration fees at AABS conferences. The AABS membership year runs from July 1 to June 30.

Please detach this entire page, including your mailing address above, and send it to the AABS mailing address above for any of the following:

- ☐ Please change my mailing address as noted above.
- ☐ Please send me a membership application by mail.
- ☐ Please contact me about making a donation or planned gift to AABS and the Baltic Studies Fund.

You can also contact AABS for these or other membership matters by emailing us at [aabs@uw.edu](mailto:aabs@uw.edu).

You can download a membership form or pay online on the AABS website at <http://aabs-balticstudies.org/membership>.)

Website: <http://aabs-balticstudies.org/>

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