Crossing North Podcast

Crossing North is a podcast about Nordic and Baltic society and culture. Episodes feature interviews with authors, performers, and leaders from Scandinavia and the Baltic, as well as discussions with faculty in the Scandinavian Studies Department and Baltic Studies Program. Crossing North is produced and hosted by Colin Gioia Connors, with Kristian Næsby.

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Episode #12: Searching for Utopia

Why did so many African-Americans go to Denmark in the 20th century and what were their experiences while there? Professor
Ethelene Whitmire answers these questions while discussing her upcoming book, *Searching for Utopia*.

**Episode #11: It's Illegal to Be Native**

What happens when sustaining a Nordic way of life disrupts sustaining a Sámi way of life? Assistant Professor Tim Frandy discusses the history and future of Sámi fishing rights on the Deatnu River, as well as a few hard truths about the ethnocentrism of Western environmental management practices.

**Episode #10: Myth & Fairytale in Frozen 2**
Director of Story Marc E. Smith discusses what it is like to work for Walt Disney Animation Studios and how a research trip to the Nordic countries inspired new artistic and thematic directions for the characters of Anna and Elsa in *Frozen 2*.

**EPISODE 10 TRANSCRIPT AND SHOW NOTES**

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**Episode #9: See the Woman**
Sámi music legend Mari Boine discusses the origins of her musical career as an Indigenous woman in Norway.

Episode #8: The Nordic Languages of Middle Earth (part 2)

Continuing our interview in Episode 7 about The Lord of the Rings with linguist Dr. Matt Boutilier, we consider more broadly how we imagine the past in medieval fantasy, and how those perceptions translate into racial typecasting in film.

Episode #7: The Nordic Languages of Middle Earth (part 1)
Linguist and co-host of *The Tolkien Heads* podcast Dr. Matt Boutilier discusses the Nordic languages of Tolkien's Middle Earth, and the kinds of linguistic stereotypes that manifest in *The Lord of the Rings* and Tolkien's other writings.

**EPISODE 7 TRANSCRIPT & SHOW NOTES**

**Episode #6: Sex and Skam**
In 2019, Assistant Professor Olivia Gunn was asked to redevelop a course on sexuality in Scandinavia. Kristian Næsby and I interview her about new directions in Swedish sex education and Norwegian public television for teens with “Skam” (2015-2017), which achieved an international following and in 2017 was the most talked about television show on Tumblr (aka the Internet) and arguably in the world.

Episode #5: An Army of One

Russia’s willingness to exploit national tensions in former Soviet-occupied states has caused the Baltic countries to revamp their national defense policies over the past decade. Estonian Ambassador to the United States, Jonatan Vseviov, explains Estonia’s national defense policy and how their reserve army model works.
Saskia Vogel is an American writer and translator of contemporary Swedish literature. We discuss the intricacies of translation, the #metoo movement in Sweden, and her debut novel, "Permission."

Episode #3: Bermuda Triangle of Music
What does it mean to be a folk musician in a country with no folk instruments? Musician and folk music festival organizer Linus Orri Gunnarsson Cederborg discusses the mysteries of Icelandic folk music.

Episode #2: There's no PTA in Finland
In 2008, Professor Andrew Nestingen went on sabbatical to Finland with his pregnant wife and two-year-old daughter. It wasn't his first trip to Finland—but it was his first trip as a father. Kristian Næsby and I sit down with Andy to discuss what he learned from his culture shock about Nordic approaches to parenting and schooling.

Episode #1: Werewolves on Campus
Latvian folkband Vilkači (Werewolves) discuss their music and worldview while Professor Guntis Šmidchens discusses the role folk music played in ending the Soviet occupation.

**EPISODE 1 TRANSCRIPT & SHOW NOTES**

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