

**”THOREAU & the NICK of TIME” – INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE AT SNORRASTOFA, REYKHOLT, MAY 25-27, 2022**

**PROGRAM:**

Wednesday, May 25:

9:00-9:30: REGISTRATION & COFFEE/TEA

9:35-10:00: Welcome by the organizers & Practical Information (Bergur Thorgeirsson, Henrik Otterberg, Rochelle Johnson, Mike Frederick)

10:00-12:15: Session 1: Toward a Historiography & Theology of Thoreau’s *A Week: Its Past & Present*; Tenses & Tensions; Sacred & Profane: *Determine Chair/Venue*

10:00-10:05: Setup & settling in; introduction of speakers.

10:05-10:45: Robert Sattelmeyer (USA), ”*A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers: Thoreau’s Stream of Time*”

10:50-11:30: William Rossi (USA), “Thoreau’s Transcendental Actualism”

11:35-12:15: Barry Andrews (USA), “Of Time and the River: The Sacred and the Profane in Thoreau’s *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*”

12:20-13:30: LUNCH, COFFEE/TEA and FRESH AIR

13:30-15:30: PARALLEL SESSIONS:

Session 2A: Unconventional Time: Thoreau & Lessons from the Non-Human:  
Chair: Ronald Wesley Hoag

13:30-13:35: Setup & settling in; introduction of speakers.

13:35-14:10: Kathryn Cornell Dolan (USA), “Thus each wind is self-registering”: Thoreau and Lessons from the Beyond-Human World”

14:15-14:50: Jake McGinnis (USA), “Not Until We Are Lost”: Veer Ecology and *The Maine Woods*”

14:55-15:30: Tim Michaels (USA), “A Stream of Temporal Undulation: Thoreau’s Ecological Time as Hyperobject”

Session 2B: Resisting Quietism & Fascist Politics: *Determine Chair/Venue*

13:30-13:35: Setup & settling in; introduction of speakers.

13:35-14:10: Antonio Casado (Spain), “The Time for Political Transcendentalism is NOW”

14:15-14:50: Michael Frederick (USA), ”Reclaiming *Resistance* in *Walden* and other Thoreau Works”

14:55-15:30: Brent Ranalli (USA), “Modern Times: Thoreau and Charlie Chaplin”

15:30-15:55: *COFFEE/TEA & FIKA BREAK*

16:00-17:00: *KEYNOTE*: Laura Dassow Walls (USA), “Thoreau’s Cosmic Time” [via live streaming/link, including Q & A afterwards]

17:10-18:30: PARALLEL SESSIONS:

Session 3A: Thoreau & Icelandic Experience 1: *Determine Chair/Venue*

17:10-17:15: Setup & settling in; introduction of speakers.

17:15-17:50: Auður Adalsteinsdóttir (Iceland), “Fantasies of Life in the Woods Under a Volcano - the Relevance of *Walden* in contemporary Icelandic literature”

17:55-18:30: Eyjólfur Eyjólfsson (Iceland), “On the Icelandic Langspil [Musical Instrument] and Thoreau”

Session 3B: Thoreau, Icelandic Experience & German Aesthetics: *Determine Chair/Venue*

17:10-17:15: Setup & settling in; introduction of speakers.

17:15-17:50: Ólafur Páll Jónsson, ”The value of the mountains in the horizon: Thoreau on the helpfulness of mountains”

17:55-18:30: William D. Fusfield (USA) ”Thoreau and Schlegel’s Romantic Aesthetics”

19:00-20:30: *DINNER*

20:30-21:00: PIANO CONCERT with Ásta Dóra Finnsdóttir

Thursday, May 26:

8:30-10:30: PARALLEL SESSIONS:

Session 4A: Thoreauvian Temporalities 1: *Determine Chair/Venue*

8:30-8:35: Setup & settling in; introduction of speakers.

8:35-9:10: Brian Bartlett (Canada), “‘The First Page of Today’: Morning and Mornings in Thoreau”

9:15-9:50: Kathy Fedorko (USA), “Henry Thoreau’s Spiritual Time”

9:55-10:30: Richard Higgins (USA), “The Scroll of Time: Thoreau and the Eternal Return”

Session 4B: Thoreauvian Temporalities 2: *Determine Chair/Venue*

8:30-8:35: Setup & settling in; introduction of speakers.

8:35-9:10: Stephen Hahn (USA), “Thoreau and *Kairos*”

9:15-9:50: Mark Luccarelli (Norway & USA), ”Thoreau’s Struggle with ‘Deep Time’: Cyclical Experience in *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*”

9:55-10:30: Keegan Peter O’Connor (UK), “In the Nick of Time: Thoreau on the Well-Timed Song of Sir Walter Raleigh”

10:35-11:00: COFFEE/TEA & FIKA BREAK

11:00-12:20: PARALLEL SESSIONS:

Session 5A: *Walden’s Habitation and History & Presentation of the Thoreau Society: Determine Chair/Venue*

11:00-11:05: Setup & settling in; introduction of speakers.

11:05-11:40: Patrick Geiger (Germany), “In *Walden’s* Margins: Holes, Tents, Shanties and Other Uncanny Dwellings through the Ages”

11:45-12:20: Rochelle Johnson & Mike Frederick on the Thoreau Society: mission, goals, activities; welcoming new members and supporters.

Session 5B: Cape Cod's Temporalities: *Determine Chair/Venue*

11:00-11:05: Setup & settling in; introduction of speakers.

11:05-11:40: Albena Bakratcheva (Bulgaria), "The Chronotope of Thoreau's *Cape Cod*"

11:45-12:20: Dennis Noson (USA) "From Brandford's Pilgrims to Snorri's Thorfinn: Thoreau's cartographic space-time in *Cape Cod's* 'Provincetown'"

12:20-13:30: [LUNCH, COFFEE/TEA and FRESH AIR](#)

13:30-15:30: PARALLEL SESSIONS:

Session 6A: Thoreau on Evaluating Time: *Determine Chair/Venue*

13:30-13:35: Setup & settling in; introduction of speakers.

13:35-14:10: Geoff Wisner (USA), "On Thoreau's Concept of 'Is it Worth the While?'"

14:15-14:50: Wallace Kaufman (USA), "Thoreau & Opportunity Cost" [attendance in doubt]

14:55-15:30: Benjamin Schacht (USA) "'Men labor under a mistake': Labor, Leisure, and the Value of Time in the Writings of Henry David Thoreau and His Contemporaries"

Session 6B: Thoreauvian Temporalities 3: *Determine Chair/Venue*

13:30-13:35: Setup & settling in; introduction of speakers.

13:35-14:10: Laraine Fergensen (USA), "On Three Concepts of Time in Thoreau"

14:15-14:50: William T. Youngs (USA), "Cohabitancy – Thoreau's Transcending the Boundary Between Past and Present"

14:55-15:30: Mark Gallagher (USA) "The Concept of Temporality in Thoreau" [via [LINK/RECORDING](#)]

15:30-15:55: [COFFEE/TEA & FIKA BREAK](#)

16:00-17:00: [PLENARY](#): Robert A. Gross (USA), "Thoreau as Assembler of Concord's Oral Histories"

17:15-18:30: Cocktail/Mocktail Refreshment with Bergur Thorgeirsson & Colleagues: including [GUIDANCE TO SNORRASTOFA](#), its History, Museum & Environs, Resources & Mission (weather allowing, including guided walk in the environs).

19:00-21:00: [CONFERENCE DINNER](#)

[Friday, May 27:](#)

8:30-10:45: *Session 7: Thoreau: Indigenous Influences, Deep Time and Agonistic Temporality:* [Determine Chair/Venue](#)

8:30-8:35: Setup & settling in; introduction of speakers.

8:35-9:15: John Kucich (USA), “Henry Thoreau, the Indian Notebooks and the Nick of Time”

9:20-10:00: François Specq (France), “Tak[ing] time by the forelock’: Thoreaus Agon”

10:05-10:45: Robert Thorson, “Thoreau, Geologic Time, and *Walden’s* Core Idea”  
[\[via live link\]](#)

10.50-11:15: [COFFEE/TEA & FIKA BREAK](#)

11:20-12:40: [PARALLEL SESSIONS:](#)

*Session 8A: 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Thoreauvian Receptions: Novelists & Artists:* [Determine Chair/Venue](#)

11:20-11:25: Setup & settling in; introduction of speakers.

11:25-12:00: David Kristinsson (Iceland), ”Time on Ice: Thoreau and Andri Snær Magnason”

12:05-12:40: Henrik Otterberg (Sweden), “The Time is Always Now: On Viktor IV’s Thoreauvian Influences”

*Session 8B: Thoreau XXXXXXXX:* [Determine Chair/Venue](#)

11:20-11:25: Setup & settling in; introduction of speaker.

11:25-12:00: Alireza Taghdarreh (Iran), “Persian mystics’ views of time via-à-vis Thoreau” [attendance in doubt]

12:05-12:40: Free slot

12:40-13:50: LUNCH, COFFEE/TEA and FRESH AIR

*Session 9: Thoreauvian Pasts and Futures: A Textual Perspective* Determine Chair/Venue

14:00-15:00: Paul Schacht (USA) & , Elizabeth Hall Witherell (USA), “The Nick of Time, Improved: Understanding Thoreau’s Revisions to *Walden*”

15:05-15:20 (circa) Concluding Remarks & Thanks (Bergur Thorgeirsson & Henrik Otterberg)

15:20-15:50: COFFEE/TEA & FIKA BREAK

16:00-17:30 Screening of Fredrik Wenzel’s and Henrik Hellström’s lauded 2009 Swedish film *Man Tänker Sitt (Burrowing)*, a poetic dissection of Swedish suburbia and conventionality, through the eyes of the boy Sebastian and the words of Henry Thoreau. Length: 76 mins. English subtitles. Authorized for General Viewing from 7 years of age in Sweden (contains some psychologically fraught & physically challenging scenes, though mainly philosophical in tone). *Determine Venue.*

19:00-21:00 JOINT DINNER for all who remain (a separate EXCURSION PROGRAM will be distributed; practical remarks on these and affiliated logistics will be made by organizer Bergur Thorgeirsson).