

**”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 at the Snorrastofa Conference Hall of the Old District School in Reykholt \(= the large white building ca 100 yards southwest of the Fosshótel\).](#)

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

10:00-12:15: [Session 1: Toward a Historiography & Theology of Thoreau’s *A Week: Its Past & Present; Tenses & Tensions; Sacred & Profane*: Chair: Ronald Wesley Hoag](#)

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”
[via recording or as read by Rochelle Johnson]

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 at the Fosshótel, and FRESH AIR](#)

13:30-15:30: PARALLEL SESSIONS:

[Session 2A: Unconventional Time: Thoreau & Lessons from the Non-Human: Chair: Michael Berger, session held at Snorrastofa Conference Hall, as per above.](#)

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: Chair: Henrik Otterberg; session held at the Snorrastofa Library, ca 100 yards west of the Fosshótel, adjacent to the church.

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 at Snorrastofa Conference Hall.

16:00-17:00: KEYNOTE at the Snorrastofa Conference Hall : Laura Dassow Walls (USA), “Thoreau’s Cosmic Time” [via live link, including Q & A].
Intro/Chair: Rochelle Johnson

Session 3: Thoreau & Icelandic Experience: Chair: Bergur Thorgeirsson; session held at the Snorrastofa Conference Hall

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

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

17:55-18:30: Ólafur Páll Jónsson, ”The value of the mountains in the horizon: Thoreau on the helpfulness of mountains”

19:00-20:30: *DINNER* on your own at Fosshótel, or nearby if you have rental car.

20:30-21:00: *PIANO CONCERT* with Ásta Dóra Finnsdóttir at the Church of Reykholt, immediately south of the Snorrastofa Library.

Thursday, May 26:

8:30-10:30: PARALLEL SESSIONS:

Session 4A: Thoreauvian Temporalities 1: Chair: Henrik Otterberg; at the Snorrastofa Conference Hall

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), “Thoreau’s Eternal Return to the Sacred Now”

Session 4B: Thoreauvian Temporalities 2: Chair: Sigrún Thormar; at the Snorrastofa Library.

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 at the Snorrastofa Conference Hall

11:00-12:20: PARALLEL SESSIONS:

Session 5A: Walden’s Habitation and History & Presentation of the Thoreau Society: Chair: Michael Berger; at the Snorrastofa Conference Hall

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 & Michael Frederick on the Thoreau Society: mission, goals, activities; welcoming new members and supporters.

Session 5B: Cape Cod's Temporalities: *Chair: John Kucich; at the Snorrastofa Library.*

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 at the Snorrastofa Conference Hall](#)

13:30-15:30: PARALLEL SESSIONS:

Session 6A: Thoreauvian Temporalities 3: *Chair: Richard Higgins; at the Snorrastofa Conference Hall*

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 live link]

Session 6B: Thoreau on Evaluating Time & German Aesthetics: *Chair: Paul Schacht; at the Snorrastofa Library.*

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: 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"

14:55-15:30: William D. Fusfield (USA), "Thoreau & Schlegel's Romantic Aesthetics"

15:30-15:55: [COFFEE/TEA & FIKA BREAK at the Snorrastofa Conference Hall](#)

16:00-17:00: [PLENARY](#): Robert A. Gross (USA), “Foolish Preachers, Poetical Farmers, and Vicious Men in the Woods: Emerson’s and Thoreau’s Representative Men” [Intro/Chair: Michael Frederick; at the Snorrastofa Conference Hall.](#)

17:15-19:00: 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). Gathering at [Exhibition Hall of the Snorrastofa Medieval and Cultural Centre \(located under the Church of Reykholt.\)](#)

20:00-22:00: [CONFERENCE DINNER at the Fosshótel Dining Hall.](#)

[Friday, May 27:](#)

8:30-10:45: *Session 7: Thoreau: Indigenous Influences, Deep Time and Agonistic Temporality:* [Chair: Rochelle Johnson; at the Snorrastofa Conference Hall.](#)

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 at Snorrastofa Conference Hall.](#)

Session 8: 20th-Century Thoreauvian Reception: Novelists & Artists: [Chair: Bergur Thorgeirsson at the Snorrastofa Conference Hall.](#)

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

11:25-12:00: Davíð 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 & Departures”

12:40-13:50: [LUNCH, COFFEE/TEA and FRESH AIR at the Snorrastofa Conference Hall.](#)

Session 9: Thoreauvian Pasts and Futures: A Textual Perspective *Chair: Ronald Wesley Hoag;*
[at the Snorrastofa Conference Hall.](#)

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

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

15:20-15:50: [COFFEE/TEA & FIKA BREAK at Snorrastofa Conference Hall.](#)
(during which a separate EXCURSION PROGRAM will be distributed; practical remarks on these and affiliated logistics will be made by organizer Bergur Thorgeirsson).

16:00-17:30 Screening of Fredrik Wenzel’s and Henrik Hellström’s 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). Introduction by Henrik Otterberg. [Free screening held at Snorrastofa Conference Hall.](#)

19:00-21:00 *DINNER* on your own at Fosshôtel, or nearby if you have rental car.