

# Symposium on Swearing in the Nordic Countries

Organized by the research network *SwiSca – Swearing in Scandinavia* and  
*The Danish Language Council*

6 December 2012, Copenhagen

To be held at H.C. Andersens Boulevard 2, Copenhagen, meeting room 7 (ground floor).

The symposium is organized by the research network *SwiSca – Swearing in Scandinavia* and *The Danish Language Council*.

Swearing research has traditionally suffered from neglect. Perhaps, due to the controversial and taboo nature of such language use, linguists have not taken swearing seriously, resulting in a lack of academic research. In recent years, however, as swear word usage has become recognized as a legitimate research area, more linguists have investigated the area. But this research has primarily been on swearing in the English speaking parts of the world, whereas research on swearing in the Nordic languages is still sparse. There are, however, some researchers who have investigated swear words in the Nordic countries, and the aim of this symposium is to jointly create an overview of Nordic swearing as a research theme.

Participation is free of charge and includes coffee/tea and lunch, but registration is required [here](#). There is only room for 100 people, so the seats are allocated on a first come, first served basis. **Deadline for registration is 15 November 2012.** Notification of registration acceptance will be given within two weeks after registration and no later than 16 November. For further information, please contact Marianne Rathje on [marianne.rathje@dsn.dk](mailto:marianne.rathje@dsn.dk).

## Preliminary programme

**9.00-9.15**      *Welcome and introduction*

Marianne Rathje (The Danish Language Council, Denmark)

**9.15-9.45**      *Your mum! Teenagers use of mother insults in English, Spanish and Norwegian*

Kristine Hasund (University of Agder, Norway),  
Anna-Brita Stenström (University of Bergen, Norway),  
Eli-Marie Drange (University of Agder, Norway)

- 9.45-10.15**      *Fuck and for fanden! Swearing in the speech of three Danish generations*  
Marianne Rathje (The Danish Language Council, Denmark)
- 10.15-10.45**      *Swearing on air: use of swearwords in Lithuanian talk shows*  
Giedrius Tamaševičius (University of Vilnius, Lithuania)
- 10.45-11.00**      **Coffee break**
- 11.00-11.30**      *The use of English-language swear words in Swedish-language comic strips*  
Kristy Beers-Fägersten (Södertörn University, Sweden)
- 11.30-12.00**      *Translation of swearwords in the Swedish Millennium Movies*  
Mona Enell-Nilsson (University of Vaasa, Finland)
- 12.00-12.30**      *Perkele! A look at the function and frequency of swearwords in original and translated Finnish fiction*  
Minna Hjort (University of Helsinki, Finland)
- 12.30-13.30**      **Lunch**
- 13.30-14.00**      *Male and female swearing in the BNC Corpus*  
Magnus Ljung (Stockholm University, Sweden)
- 14.00-14.30**      *With the devil and Our Lord through three centuries. Men's and women's swearing in Swedish dramas*  
Ulla Stroh-Wollin (Uppsala University, Sweden)

- 14.30-15.00**     *Insulted in Uppsala: The pragmatic dimensions of insults in the 1600s*  
Erik Falk (Uppsala University, Sweden)
- 15.00-15.15**     **Coffee break**
- 15.15-15.45**     *The vocabulary of Norwegian cursing. Some of its history, meanings and function*  
Ruth Vatvedt Fjeld (University of Oslo, Norway)
- 15.45-16.15**     *Swedish attitudes to swearing*  
Lars-Gunnar Andersson (University of Gothenburg, Sweden)
- 16.15-16.45**     *Closing remarks*  
Marianne Rathje (The Danish Language Council, Denmark)