

Ruth Hemstad<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>National Library of Norway/University of Oslo

Scandinavianism and Nordism in the Light of Pan-movements

Bakgrund/Frågeställning

Scandinavianism was one of several pan-movements shaping - and shaped by - national projects, region-building and transnational encounters in Europe and beyond, mainly from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. Their significance as cultural and political mobilizing forces has been neglected by a nation-state-oriented historiography, limiting alternative visions of nationhood to the single quest for statehood. This paper will discuss Nordic experiences of Scandinavianism ? and its successor Nordism – in the light of pan-nationalisms in Europe more generally and ask why the Nordic pan-idea has survived until today and even been characterized as the “most successful of all European pan-movements”, although its high-political goal of a common state structure was never achieved.

A broader and more nuanced understanding of pan-national movements in recent research, underlines their importance as not limited to or measured by their success or failure in forming nation-states. Scandinavianism may thus be described as a meso-regional pan-nationalism, based on an imagined collective of “Scandinavians” – as opposed to “Germans” and “Slavs” ? and promoted by region-building endeavors by ideologically motivated activists. What may be termed the civil society-pan-nationalism nexus in the Nordic region, and the persistence of a rhetoric of unification and ideology of cooperation, contributing to the comprehensive web of Nordic cooperation on civil society and official levels, must be understood in view of the historical development of Scandinavianism and Nordism seen in a broader pan-national and mesoregional context.

Metod och Resultat

Konklusion