LitCit Summary

**Literary Citizens of the World**

Tracing the transnational crossroads of books in Early Modern Norway (LitCit)

The year 2019 marks the 500th anniversary of the printed book in Norway. How did the book change society? In what way did it influence ideas on children, gender or nationality, or simply how we consume entertainment? Why has it remained such a powerful and influential medium through the shifting media revolutions?

LitCit is an international and interdisciplinary project that covers the book medium’s evolvement in Norway from its religious beginnings in 1519 to the emergence of the modern public sphere in the mid-1800s. Books in Scandinavia were on the one hand steeped in a pan European market and tradition, and on the other, they constitute an important and different case of regional and local adaptation, marked by what has been termed “Northern Enlightenment” and later the phenomenon of Scandinavian world literature (Ibsen and Strindberg).

LitCit will focus on these strategic areas of research:

- The impact of the book medium on religion, education, and literacy.
- The emergence of the book as a mass medium for new readerships.
- The circulation and adaptation of books, texts and technology on the print market.
- The book medium’s role in negotiations of identity, politics and the public sphere.

We will do so by applying transnational and comparative perspectives of book and media history on major social, aesthetical, textual and technological developments. Furthermore, the project aims to develop new theory and methodology, particularly in digital humanities and bibliography. Popular and scholarly results include exhibitions at The National Library on the history of books and the development of the public sphere and a bibliography of Norwegian books 1519-1850.

The project will be hosted by the National Library of Norway (NL) and members include: **Aina Nøding** (Assistant Professor, The National Library, Oslo; who will head the project), **Aasta M. B. Bjarkøy** (Ph.D., Scandinavian Literature, Oslo), **Jens Bjerring-Hansen** (Ph.D., Danish Literature, Copenhagen), **Gina Dahl** (Ph.D., History of Religion, Bergen), **Anne Eriksen** (Professor, Cultural History, Oslo), **Klaus-Dieter Ertler**, (Professor, Literature in Roman Languages, Graz), **Narve Fulsås** (Professor, History, Tromsø), **Ruth Hemstad** (Ph.D., Research Librarian, Oslo), **Jon Haarberg** (Professor, Comparative Literature, Oslo), **Ellen Krefting** (Professor, History of Ideas, Oslo), **Karin Kukkonen** (Associate Professor, Comparative Literature, Oslo), **James Raven** (Professor of Modern History, Essex), **Anne Birgitte Rønning** (Professor, Comparative Literature, Oslo) and **Karen Skovgaard-Pedersen** (Ph.D. and Dr. philos., Director of The Society for Danish Language and Literature, Copenhagen).

**Further research network**

Network participants will contribute papers to workshops and seminars. They will be important partners in discussing the projects ongoing research within an even broader transnational and interdisciplinary context. They include: **Charlotte Appel** (Associate Professor, History, Aarhus), **Giuliano D’Amico** (Associate Professor, Scandinavian Literature, Trondheim), **Ståle Dingstad** (Professor, Scandinavian Literature, Oslo), **Marianne Egeland** (Professor, Scandinavian Literature, Oslo), **Kari Haarder Ekman** (Research Fellow, Comparative Literature, Stockholm), **Simon Frost** (Senior Lecturer, English, Bournemouth), **Christian Janss** (Associate Professor, German, Oslo), **Mats Malm** (Professor, Comparative Literature, Gothenburg), **Thomas Munck** (Professor, Early Modern History,
Glasgow), *Magne Njåstad* (Associate Professor, History, Trondheim), *Tore Rem* (Professor, English Literature, Oslo), *Sophus Reinert* (Assistant Professor, Business Administration, Harvard B.S., Cambridge MA), *Tina Skouen* (Associate Professor, English, Oslo), *Inger Østenstad* (Associate Professor, Comparative Literature, Oslo).