

Report on results, ABM- research project, Jonas M Nordin, Swedish History Museum

Introduction

In 2008 Jonas M Nordin, was hired as a researcher and senior curator at the Swedish History Museum (Historiska museet, SHM), department of Cultural History and Collections. The appointment was part of the ABM- (Archives, Libraries and Museums) research project initiated and funded by the Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities (KVHAA) and the Riksbankens jubileumsfond (RJ).

The position was designed as both a trainee program within the museum organization (SHMM) as well as an academic tenure track-employment, which after a longer period of research, followed by a trial (after two years, and additional research for three years) aimed to be transformed into a permanent position at the host department. Six month probationary period was practiced. After a process of evaluation in 2010 the project was deemed successful and was given the option to continue for another three years. The achievement of the title docent (associate professor) together with acknowledged skill in the performing of work-duties, during the five year period, was postulated as the areas of success agreed by the host department (SHM) and the financers (KVHAA, RJ).

In the fall of 2013 I was announced docent (associate professor) in Historical Archaeology at Lund University. At the end of April the employment ceased. The termination of the position was preceded by notice (Sw. varsel) followed by termination (Sw. uppsägning). I was not offered continued employment within the tenure track system.

Aim of the project

The project aimed at "through archaeological studies of material culture and from perspectives on the use of history and colonialism develop the historical archeology and close the gap of the constructed chronological boundaries between medieval and early modern period" (research plan: Andra tider, andra platser – materiella uttryck av historiebruk och kolonialism; Eng. Other times, other places – tangible expressions of the use of history and colonialism; www.shmm.se/fou).

In the projects' publishing plan it was stated that six articles were to be published along with a monograph. Changing conditions within the humanities research with greater emphasis on the importance of international peer reviewed publications, resulted in a focus on the latter. The planned monograph was postponed and will be published after projects' end. Instead 16 scientific papers were published or are at the moment in review or in press. Two edited volumes and several popular-scientific texts were written. The entire project has resulted in 29 publications (including forthcoming submitted works).

The project's three main results

The projects' results were presented continuously through publication of scientific papers,

presentations at seminars, national and international conferences, and popular publications and lectures.

The project's three main results consists of:

1. To have strengthened historical archeology at the Swedish History museum and the increase of the relevance of this field of research in the humanities in Sweden.

Through my work and research the Swedish History museum has strengthened its presence in the field of historical archeology and the making of new partners and new contacts at regional as well as on national and international levels.

2. Increased awareness of global archaeological and global historical perspectives within the Swedish History museum's field of activity, visible in both exhibitions, public program activities, research and development (Sw. FoU) and internal organizational development (SHMM have for instance emphasized the relevance of the global aspects of the past in the manifesto that has been produced 2013/14 in which the present research have been a part).

3. New empirical scientific results made in the project studies that demonstrates the importance of the early modern globalization and colonialism, in the past as well as in a contemporary perspective. Case studies from archaeological investigations of sites in New Sweden, present Pennsylvania (Nordin 2013 b), shows a significant interaction between Swedish colonists, other European agents and the indigenous people. Similarly, a significant degree of globalization and the influence of a colonial ideology has been detected in central Sweden as well as in Sápmi that can be visualized by studying the collections of the Swedish History museums' collections (Nordin 2010, 2012, 2013a , Nordin forthcoming a,b,c).

New research questions

The project *Andra tider – andra platser*, has generated a number of new research questions. Some have been pursued in depth. Others have led on to further questions and called for more thorough analyzes. The project has resulted in four key questions which have led to new research projects of which two are currently funded by Swedish Board of Science (Vetenskapsrådet, Vr), from 2014.02.01 to 2018.01.31.

1. The popular, political and scientific construction of Sámi and Sápmi and the meaning of material culture in this process. Ongoing project, *Collecting Sápmi*, funded by Vr.
2. The global plantation. Seventeenth century metal industry and the works industry as part of a modern global production. Ongoing projects, *A Colonial Arena*, funded by Vr.
3. Scandinavians on the Slave Coast. What role did the Swedish Africa Company, 1649–63 have in the transition from metal trade to the slave trade, what role did the Swedes and Danes have in the integration of the Gold Coast in the Atlantic world in the mid Seventeenth century? Future research project.
4. Margins of modernity. Economic and social strategies in the margins of modern society. Swedish Roma people during the Twentieth century. Project will apply for funding 2014.

The project's main publications

The project has generated (or will generate) 29 publications, including seven in international refereed journals and four in international edited volumes. Furthermore, two edited volumes have been produced within the project.

The two most important publications are the articles: 'Embodied Colonialism – The cultural meaning of Silver in a Swedish colonial perspective in the 17th century' (Journal of Post-Medieval Archaeology 2012) and 'The Centre of the World: The Material Construction of Eurocentric Domination and Hybridity in a Scandinavian Seventeenth - Century Context' (Journal of Material Culture, 2013).

In 'Embodied Colonialism' a holistic approach to Seventeenth century material culture is adapted in order to understand the escalating globalization and the emerging colonialism based on source material from Sápmi and Sweden. The article summarizes previous case studies and points further to other empirical cases studies. In 'The Centre of the World' the construction of a Eurocentric worldview on the Skokloster estate is examined through studies of ruins and old buildings in contrast to collected artifacts from the other parts of the Atlantic world

The project's contribution to increased cooperation between academia and the ABM-sector

During the project, close contacts with universities in different parts of the world have been created and maintained. The universities of Lund and Uppsala has been the most important but the universities of Stockholm, Helsinki, Oulu, York and University of Maryland (Washington DC), University of Massachusetts (Boston), Stanford University and University of West Bohemia (Plzen) has been part of ongoing collaborations created during the project and of great support to it.

Other types of dissemination of results

During the project activities, or in close proximity to them, the teaching of undergraduate and graduate students of archeology at has been conducted at Stockholm University. The results from the project have been significant in the teaching. Some twenty guided tours of exhibitions and collections of the Swedish History museum have been conducted. Four popular lectures have been presented. Six seminar presentations at various departments. Thirteen international and two national conference papers have been presented. Through the project-related research initiation project *Globarch*, operated jointly with Magdalena Naum, Lund University dissemination of results via the website and through network meetings (www.globarch.org).

Conclusion

The research project *Andra tider – andra platser*, is completed. Working within this project has been very rewarding. The five research years has provided the ability to combine the best of both worlds: close access to a unique archaeological collection and simultaneously an intensive global scientific discussion. The project has led to many new scientific questions, some of which will be pursued in future research projects. For me, the project has enabled a decisive step in my career and a considerably stronger position in the academic research.

List of Published works, *Andra tider, andra platser*, Jonas M Nordin

Conference papers

- 2014: State Formation in the North. Session organized at 47th SHA Conference, 8–12.1 Québec. Together with Gavin Lucas and Timo Ylimaunu. Paper: Collecting Sápmi, presented in the same session.
- 2014: Paper: New Collaborations, New Perspectives, New Questions, together with Lu Ann De Cunzo presented at 47th SHA Conference, 8–12.1, Québec.
- 2013: Materialities on the move: People objects and material imprints in ‘Old’ and New Sweden. Paper presented at Encountering the Other – understanding Oneself. New Sweden 375th Anniversary Conference, Lund 8–10.6.
- 2013: Biographies of looting: The material culture of sacking in a north European context, 19th EAA Conference Plzen, 1–5.9. In Session ‘Archaeological perspectives of the Thirty Years’ War.
- 2013: Shards of the Atlantic: Sweden and 17th Century Colonialism. Paper presented at 46th SHA Conference Leicester, U.K. 9.1-12.1 2013 in Session ‘Colonial Scandinavia and Scandinavian Colonialism’, organized by Jonas M Nordin and Carl-Gösta Ojala.
- 2012: Colonialism Within: Spatial Reflections of the Global World in the seventeenth Century. Paper presented at the 18th EAA Conference in Helsinki 29.8-1.9 2012 in Session ‘Entangled Colonialism’, organized by Jonathan Finch, Magdalena Naum and Jonas M. Nordin
- 2012: New Sweden Revisited. Paper presented at Society for Historical Archaeology’s yearly Conference, 4–8, January, Baltimore Md.
- 2011: Session organized, together with Ph.D. Magdalena Naum & M.A Ruud Stelten (title: Addressing the Void) at the 17th EAA-conference, 14–17.9. Paper presented in the same session.
- 2011: Paper presented at the Society of Post Medieval Archaeology, conference Isle of Man, 2–4.9.
- 2011: Plenum presentation Svenska historikermötet i Göteborg, 5–7.5.
- 2011: Paper presented at the 11th Nordic TAG-conference in Kalmar, 19–21.4.
- 2011: Paper presented at the 8th Nordic conference of Stratigraphy in Jönköping, 25–26.2.
- 2010: Paper presented at the 16th EAA-conference in Den Haag, NL. September.
- 2009: Paper presented at the 15th EAA-Conference in Riva del Garda, It. September
- 2009: Session organized and paper presented at the 10th Nordic TAG-conference in Stiklestad, No. May.

In review

Nordin, J.M. ‘Organized Materialities: In search of the late medieval rural guilds and their material culture’. In review for *Scandinavian Journal of History*.

Herva, V-P. & Nordin, J.M. ‘Unearthing Atlantis and performing the past in Seventeenth-Century Sweden: Understanding the Biography and Context of an Early Modern ‘Esoteric’ Artefact’. In review for *Journal of Social Archaeology*

Eriksdotter, G., Nordin, J.M. & Nilsson, P. ‘Elements of the Conspicuous: Spatializing a Swedish Baroque Landscape Between the Local and the Global’ In review for the journal *Landscapes*.

Forthcoming

Nordin, J.M. forthcoming a, 'Metals of Metabolism: The Construction of Industrial Space and the Commodification of Early Modern Sápmi' *Historical Archaeologies of Capitalism* (revised edition) Eds. Mark P. Leone & Jocelyn Knauf. Springer: New York.

Nordin, J.M. forthcoming b, 'Från Guldkusten till Slavkusten – svenska kulturlandskap på främmande kust?: Svenska Afrikakompaniet och den tidigmoderna globaliseringen'. *Världens svenskaste historia*. Lotta Fernstål & Fredrik Svanberg (ed).

Nordin, J.M. forthcoming c, 'Mercantilist Biographies: Agents and actants in the birth of a global world' In review for: *The Archaeology of Mercantile Capitalism*. Harold Mytum (ed.), Post-Medieval Archaeology Monographs, Maney: London.

Articles in Scientific Journals (peer review)

Nordin, J.M. 2013a. 'The Centre of the World: The Material Construction of Eurocentric Domination and Hybridity in a Scandinavian Seventeenth-Century Context'. *Journal of Material Culture* 18:2, 189–209.

Nordin, J. M. 2012. 'Embodied Colonialism – The cultural meaning of Silver in a Swedish colonial perspective in the 17th century'. *Journal of Post Medieval Archaeology* 46(1), 143–165.

Nordin, J. M. & Eriksson, G. 2011. 'Being on the Inside, Forgetting to Look Out: The Need for a Historical Archaeology of Global Relevance'. *Current Swedish Archaeology* 19. Pp143–165.

Nordin, J. M. 2011. Archaeological Investigations in the world of Display. A Material Study of the use of History in the Stockholm Exhibition of 1897. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 15:3. Pp 358–380.

Monographs and anthologies

Naum, M. & Nordin, J.M. (eds). 2013b. *Scandinavian Colonialism and the Rise of Modernity. Small time agents in a global arena*. Magdalena Naum & Jonas M Nordin. Springer International: New York.

Nordin, J.M. & Lihhammer, A. (eds) 2010. *Modernitetens materialitet. Arkeologiska perspektiv på modernitetens framväxt*. Museum of National Antiquities Studies 17.

Bookchapters

Nordin, J.M. 2014. 'Materialitet, kolonialism och globala nätverk: materiell kultur i det tidigmoderna atlantiska samhället'. *Fråga föremålen: handbok till historiska studier av materiell kultur*. Red. Forssberg, A.-M. & Sennefeldt, K. Studentlitteratur. Lund. 161–76.

Nordin, Jonas M. 2013 "There and back again – the material culture of New Sweden. Towards an Archaeology of hybridity of 17th Century Colonialism", i *Scandinavian Colonialism and the Rise of Modernity. Small time agents in a global arena*. Magdalena Naum & Jonas M Nordin (Eds). Springer International: New York. 207–225.

Naum, M. & Nordin, J.M. 2013. 'Introduction. Situating Scandinavian Colonialism'. *Scandinavian Colonialism and the Rise of Modernity. Small time agents in a global arena*. Magdalena Naum & Jonas M. Nordin, red. Springer International: New York. 3–16.

Herva, V-P. & Nordin, J.M. 2013. 'Classicism and Knowing the World in Early Modern Sweden'. *Relational Archaeologies: Humans, Animals, Things*. Christopher Watts (ed.). Routledge: London. 209–227.

Nordin, J.M. 2010: 'Det emblematiske silvret. Sverige i den atlantiska världen under 1600-talet'. *Modernitetens materialitet. Arkeologiska perspektiv på modernitetens framväxt*. Museum of National Antiquities Studies 17. Eds. Nordin, J.M. & Lihammer, A. Pp. 47–70.

Nordin, J.M. 2009: 'Of Brick and Stone: The Archaeology of Birgitta Sonadotter and Stig Hansson. Individuality and Architectural Strategies in Late medieval Dalecarlia, Sweden'. *From Ephesos to Dalecarlia. Studies in Medieval Archaeology conducted at the department of Archaeology*, University of Stockholm. Eds. Elisabet Regner et al. Stockholm. Pp.247–275.

Nordin, J.M. 2009. 'Den iscensatta medeltiden och drömmarna om moderniteten: historiebruket vid Stockholmsutställningen 1897'. *Tankar om ursprung. Forntiden och medeltiden i nordisk historieanvändning*. Eds. Samuel Edquist et al Stockholm. Pp. 223–248.

Other journals and articles

Nordin, J.M. 2014. 'Modern tid' (and other texts) texts, *En sak till: 12 experters spännande berättelser om 32 fantastiska föremål på Historiska museet*.

Nordin, J.M. 2013. När Sverige ville ha sin bit av Amerika. Under strecket. *Svenska Dagbladet* 4.3.

Nordin, J.M. 2011. Järn, bäverskinn och slavar: om Sveriges koloniala arv. *Röda Rummet* 2011:1–2.

Nordin, J.M. 2011. Den organiserade marginalen. De senmedeltida gillenas arkeologi. *Formännen*. Swedish Journal of Antiquarian Research 2011:1. Pp. 27–42.

Reviews

Nordin, J.M. 2013. 'Review av Förmodern globalitet. Andrén, A. (ed.) Lund: Nordic Academic Press 2011. *Historisk Tidskrift* 2013:4. 717–21.

Nordin, J.M. 2011. Review of Hicks, D. & Beaudry, M.C. 2005. The Cambridge Companion to Historical Archaeology. *Formännen*. Swedish Journal of Antiquarian Research 2011:1.

Nordin, J.M. 2010. Review of Evans, C. & Rydén, G. 2007. Baltic Iron in the Atlantic World. *Formännen*. Swedish Journal of Antiquarian Research. 2010:3. Pp 258–259

Nordin, J.M. 2010. Review of Chris Gosden "Archaeology and colonialism". *Formännen*. Swedish Journal of Antiquarian Research. 2010:1. Pp 73–75.

Research Reports

Andersson, G. & Nordin, J.M. 2010. *Arkeologiska undersökningar i den utställda världen*. Fou-rapporter 6. Statens historiska museum, Fou-rapporter 6. Stockholm.

Nordin, J.M. 2008. *Det magiska året 1897. Förstudie till ett publik- och samtidsarkeologiskt projekt*. Statens historiska museum , Fou-rapporter 5. Stockholm.