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Institut für Europäische und Vergleichende  
Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft  
Abteilung Finno-Ugristik

Vortrag

Tania Ørum  
**Avant-Garde in the Nordic Countries - Piecing  
Together a Cultural History**

Respondentin  
**Noit Banai**

Zeit:

**Mittwoch, 22. April 2015, 18 Uhr**

Ort:

**Seminarraum 1, Abteilung Finno-Ugristik**

Institut für Europäische und Vergleichende Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft

Universität Wien

Campus AAKH, Hof 7, Eingang 7.2

Spitalgasse 2-4, A-1090 Wien

The talk will trace the history of the avant-garde in the Nordic countries during the 20th century and discuss concepts of the avant-garde, historical contexts and methods of avant-garde research, transnational perspectives and the question of centre and periphery.

The Scandinavian countries had a pre-avant-garde generation of artists – Ibsen, Munch, Strindberg et al. – who were well-known in Europe and thus paved the way for the avant-garde that followed in the first quarter of the 20th century. In the early period there were no indigenous avant-garde movements in the Scandinavian countries. Artists travelled from the Nordic countries to the European centres to join avant-garde groups - one example is the Paris based *Ballets Suédois*. The interwar period saw the establishment of avant-garde groups in the Nordic countries. And one significant transnational group, the Cobra group, survived World War II and had a very active member, the Danish artist Asger Jorn, who in the 1950s went on to start the Situationist movement in collaboration with Guy Debord. After World War II lively avant-garde movements appeared in the Nordic countries as part of the 1960s wave of revolt.

Tania Ørum is professor of comparative literature and cultural studies at the University of Copenhagen, director of the Nordic Network of Avant-Garde Studies and editor of the four volumes of *Cultural History of the Avant-Garde in the Nordic Countries*.

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