

Conference Program

THURSDAY 4 JUNE (DAY 1)

8:45–9:30 REGISTRATION (Vrimlehallen)

9:30–9:45 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Room B2 003)

9:45–11:15 PARALLEL SESSIONS I

Panel 1: Visions of Different Americas (Room D3 013)

“*Myra Breckinridge* and the Limits of Constitutional Freedom”

Jessica Allen Hanssen, Nord University

“Elsa Gidlow’s Garden: Queer Counter-Visions of America”

Aurora Eide, University of Agder

“Constituting Narrative Empathy: George Saunders’ (Crisis) Narratives of Masculinity”

Peter Paul Ferry, University of Stavanger

Panel 2: Threats to Democracy (Room D3 016)

“What to the United States is the Public Intellectual: Considerations of Anti-Intellectualism as a Threat to Democracy and Contemporary Current in Frameworks”

Daniel C. Charlton, Montana State University, Billings

“The Roots of Anti-Muslim Hate in America”

Fadime Apaydin, University of California, Riverside

“Security at Risk, Safety at a Crossroads”

Kristiansand, June 4–6, 2026

Adam Głaz, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin

11.15–11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11.30–13.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS II

Panel 3: Fictions of US Spaces (Room D3 013)

“Cartographies of Exclusion: Migrant Re-Mappings of the ‘American Dream’ in Imbolo Mbue's *Behold the Dreamers*”

Oksana Starshova, Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University

“Cats and the Constitution”

Ida M. Olsen, University of Agder

“Dangerous Spaces: Constituting (In)Security in Literary Spatial Imaginations of the US–Mexican Border”

Gabriele Piszcz-Ramirez, Leipzig University

Panel 4: Music, Film, and Democratic Fragility (Room D3 016)

“‘If the First Amendment Will Protect a Scumbag Like Me, It Will Protect All of You’: Lessons from *The People vs. Larry Flynt* for the 21st Century”

Milan Hain, Palacký University

“The Border as Constitution: Cinematic Imaginaries of Sovereignty and Exclusion in American and Polish Film”

Zbigniew Mazur, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University

“Ambassador of Democracy: Great American Poet, Singer and Musician Bob Dylan’s Visit to the USSR in 1985”

Kirill Razumov, Independent Scholar

13:00–14:00 LUNCH

14.00–15.30 PARALLEL SESSIONS III

Panel 5: Empire and Colonial Legacies (Room D3 013)

“Anthropology and the Constitution: A History of Sexuality, Race, and the Colonial Philippines around 1900”

Christa Wirth, University of Agder

“Constituting the US: Liberty, Property, and the Racial Foundations of the American Republic”

Jee An, Seoul National University

“Refugee Narrative and the Reimagining of U.S. Belonging”

Claudia Sadowski-Smith, Arizona State University

Panel 6: Illiberalism, Constitutional Exclusions, and the Struggle for Rights (Room D3 016)

“Constituting Freedom: Phillis Wheatley and the Reimagining of US Citizenship in Honorée Fanonne Jeffers’s *The Age of Phillis*”

Sabrina Vellucci, Roma Tre University

“Raising Voices and Awareness: Women’s Struggle for Equal Rights in the U.S.A.”

María Luz Arroyo Vázquez, UNED, The Spanish National Distance Learning University

“Constitutional Contradictions: Racialized Power and the Enduring Illiberalism of U.S. Democracy”

Navneet Kumar, Mount Royal University, Calgary

15.30–15:45 COFFEE BREAK

15:45–16:45 KEYNOTE ADDRESS I (Room B2 003)

Kristiansand, June 4–6, 2026

“The Many Constitutions of the American Founding”

Sarah Gronningsater, University of Pennsylvania

EVENING

Optional activity: walk from campus to city centre through the botanic gardens/Gimle gård grounds

18.00–19:15 DRINKS AT CLUB21

19.30 KILDEN CONCERT (for ticket holders)

FRIDAY 5 JUNE (DAY 2)

8.30–10:00 PARALLEL SESSIONS IV

Panel 7: Law and Outlaws (Room D3 013)

“Marlowe v. Brass Knuckles: Constituting Law in Raymond Chandler’s *The Long Goodbye*”

Ken R. Hanssen, Nord University

“Once an outlaw always an outlaw: law, democracy, and the origins of the United States in William C. Williams’ *In the American Grain*”

Fiorenzo Iuliano, University of Cagliari

“Amending the Exception: *The Purge*, Constitutional Gothic, and Illiberal Democracy”

Michael Fuchs, University of Innsbruck

Panel 8: The Constitution in the Classroom (Room D3 016)

“Pedagogies of Resistance: Teaching Dystopian American Literature as a Civic Practice”

Eir-Anne Edgar, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

“Conflicts, Contents, and Contexts: Teaching the Constitution as a ‘Foundation of American Democracy’”

Anne S. Agbe-Davies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

“Reconsidering Inclusion: Disability, Citizenship, and the Future of Inclusive Education in the United States”

Michelle L. Bonati, State University of New York at Plattsburgh

10.00–10:15 COFFEE BREAK

10.15–11:45 PARALLEL SESSIONS V

Panel 9: Aesthetic Instantiations of the Constitution (Theatre, Architecture, Poetry) (Room D3 013)

“Constitutional architecture”

Timothy Saunders, Volda University College

“Staging the Constitution: The Living Newspaper and Constitutional Critique”

Erin Small Capistrano, University of Oslo

“‘There is a pain – so utter’: Emily Dickinson’s Political Ontology of Pain”

Harrison F. Dietzman, George Fox University

Panel 10: Who Counts? Constitutional Personhood from Corporations to Criminalized Bodies (Room D3 016)

“Cruel and Unusual: Race, Gender, Capital Punishment, and the US Constitution

John A. Kirk, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Kristiansand, June 4–6, 2026

“Gay Rights on the Front Range: The 1990s Culture Wars over City Ordinances in Colorado”

Hilde Løvdal Stephens, University of Oslo

“Persons, Corporations, Group Minds, and Replicants: The Science Fiction of the Fourteenth Amendment”

Stephen Dougherty, University of Agder

11.45–12:30 LUNCH

12.30–13.00 CONCERT: ‘One-Man Punk Band’ – James Marinelli

<https://www.jmarinelli.org/>

13.00–14:15 PARALLEL SESSIONS VI

Panel 11: Authoritarianism and Fascist Imaginaries (Room D3 013)

“First as Alternative History, Then as Reality: Philip K. Dick and Corporatist Fascism in US Culture”

Richard Hardack, Independent scholar

“Donald Trump's place in the authoritarian traditions of in American life”

Fabrizio Tonello, University of Padua

Panel 12: Threats to Indigenous Sovereignty (Room D3 016)

“Terminating and Restoring Wisconsin’s Menominee Tribe: Indigenous and Government Responses to Assimilation Pressures”

Dean J. Kotlowski, Salisbury University

“Indigenous Reactions to U.S. constitutional frameworks of sovereignty and land rights: The Case of Tommy Orange’s *There There* (2018)”

Hamid Masfour, Sultan Moulay Slimane University

14.15–14:30 COFFEE BREAK

14:30–15:30 KEYNOTE ADDRESS II (Room B2 003)

“Liberalism and Its Discontents: Dragging America in the Wake”

Xine Yao, University College London

15.40–17:10 ASANOR BOARD MEETING

EVENING

19.00– CONFERENCE DINNER AT SJØHUSET RESTAURANT

SATURDAY 6 JUNE (DAY 3)

9.00–10:00 ASANOR BUSINESS MEETING

10.00–11:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS VII

Panel 13: Faith, Ideology, and Constitutional Interpretation (Room D3 013)

“‘We Need God in Our Country’: The Quest to Christianize the Constitution”

William R. Glass, University of Warsaw

“Reds Under the Bed: Conservative Protestants, Race, and Anti-Communism”

Randall Stephens, University of Oslo

“New-fangled Treasons: Non-violence, the American Revolution, and the Treason Clause”

Susan Erdmann, University of Agder

Panel 14: American Violence and Musical Memorials (Room D3 016)

“Softening the Imperial Blow: 9/11’s Musical Memorials during the Global War on Terror”

Abigail Shupe, Colorado State University, Fort Collins

“Run Into the Arms of America: U2 and the Ambiguity of the Promised Land”

Ingunn Røysland, Setesdal videregående skule, Hovden

“This Is Not America’: Violence, Guns, and the Second Amendment in David Bowie’s Lyrics”

Charles I. Armstrong, University of Agder

11.30–12:15 LUNCH

12.15–12.45 LIVE POETRY

Alisha Dietzman Reads from *Sweet Movie* and *XOXO*

<https://www.alishadietzman.com/>

12.45–13:45 ROUNDTABLE (Room B2 003)

“America250 and the Uses of the Founding”

13.45–14:00 COFFEE BREAK

14.00–14:30 GUIDED TOUR OF UIA ART COLLECTION

15.00–17:00 KUNSTSILO (optional activity)

Kristiansand, June 4–6, 2026