

*Minutes
Board Meeting
The Nordic Society of Middle Eastern Studies
Tampere, August 24, 2012*

Participants: Jørgen Jensehaugen, Hannu Juusola, Anitta Kynsilehto and Leif Stenberg. Olof Heilo and Christina Rothman were invited to the board meeting as part of the new administrative organization of the NSM.

1. *Opening of the board meeting.* The meeting was opened at 14.30.
2. *Approval of agenda.* Agenda was approved.
3. Leif Stenberg elected chair of the meeting.
4. Anitta Kynsilehto elected secretary of the meeting.
5. Brief report from individual countries:

Finland: In Tampere, new international MA-program PEACE begins in September 2012 including modules on the Middle East. In its first edition, the program includes 18 students from various countries. In Helsinki, the first MA-program on Modern Middle East begins in September.

Sweden: A new Turkish Studies Center is in the process of being established in Stockholm in September 2012. In Lund, there are 39 new students in the MA-program, of whom nine with scholarships (outside the EU countries). In spring 2012 a large conference on the Arab Spring was organized in Lund, with academics, artists and bloggers.

Norway: The opening of the Center for Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at Oslo University was a great success in terms of media visibility, students, etc. Babylon will organize a conference on Syria in Oslo in September.

Denmark: No board member from Denmark present. In Roskilde University there is a new position, where Sune Haugbølle has been selected.

Leif participated in at the EURAMES conference and invited EURAMES to take part in the Nordic conference in September 2013.

6. *Report about the PhD school in Istanbul:* 15 students have been accepted to the course, two already doing fieldwork in Turkey. There were some 20-25 applications to the course, which shows the need for organizing such courses. The board decided to organize PhD schools – if funding will be provided – every second year after the Nordic conference. The board equally decided that this year the membership possibility will be advertised to the participants; in subsequent PhD schools the membership in the NSM will be made mandatory for the students in order to qualify for the grant.

7. *The outline and function of the new web page.* Christina presented the current phase of the new website (thenordicsociety.com) and after discussing the layout and content, Jørgen and Christina were authorized to complete the work by August 27.

8. *Graphic profile of NSM and Facebook.* The board discussed the graphic profile of NSM. The board decided to do and launch the website first and get back to the Facebook issue at a later phase.

9. *Report about the next NSM conference.* Leif reported to the board the current phase of preparation of the conference. Two keynote speakers have already accepted, two others remain to be identified. Lila Abu-Lughod and Knut Vikør were suggested as potential keynote speakers. The CFP for the conference will be released the September 3 at the latest.

10. *Report about the work of transferring administration of NSM to Lund.* Leif and Christina reported about the current phase of transferring administration to Lund. The board decided that only one bank account will be opened for and used by the Society. The board also decided that there will be a three-year membership fee only, 50e/400kr for students and 70e/600kr for researchers. Babylon will be offered to individuals for 100kr a one-year-trial, and 120kr/yr for members of the Nordic Society. The board seeks to identify other possible membership discounts, for example by different publishers in Finland. The members will also have a possibility to send information on new publications to be posted on the NSM website.

11. *Activities of NSM in 2013 – recruiting members.* There will be no other activities apart from the Nordic conference in September. A following PhD course will be organized in 2014.

12. Next board meeting will be in Oslo April 9, 2013. Knut Vikør will be invited to participate the meeting.

13. No other issues.

Tampere August 30, 2012,

Anitta Kynsilehto

Leif Stenberg
Certifier/Attestant

Jørgen Jensehaugen
Certifier/Attestant