Nordic Noir – Follow the Bridge

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### Abstract

We have a notion of what ‘noir’ means in cinema, but what about the epithet ‘Nordic’? Understanding and discussing the Nordic element in ‘Nordic noir’ is the main purpose of this lecture. This is pursued by tracing the concepts of location and identity in selected episodes of three TV series representative of Nordic noir – *Wallander* (2005-), *Forbrydelsen* (*The Killing*, 2007, 2009, 2012), and the Swedish-Danish co-production *Bron* **|***Broen* (*The Bridge*, 2011, 2013, 2015). Considering the roots of Nordic noir is important in order to understand what the concept implies, including its melancholic and dark features. The common roots and the different ways in which the Nordic countries traditionally see each other are therefore investigated – with Denmark and Sweden in the main roles. The lecture concludes with a perspective considering the role of Nordic noir vis-à-vis international TV drama productions.

**Biography**

**Gunhild Agger**, Professor, Dept. of Culture and Global Studies, Aalborg University. Her research areas include television drama, the history of media and genres, national and transnational film, bestsellers and blockbusters. Director of the collaborative, cross-disciplinary research programme *Crime Fiction and Crime Journalism in Scandinavia* (2007-10). Currently member of the research team in the programme *What Makes Danish Television Drama Series Travel?* Co-editor of *Northern Lights*. She has published/edited a number of books and articles within her research areas, among them *The Aesthetics of Television* (2001), *Dansk TV-drama* (2005), ‘Histoire et culture médiatique: le roman policier historique en Scandinavie’ (2010),”Lidenskab og lidelse – Lars von Trier’s *Antichrist*” (2012),“Nordic Noir on Television – *The Killing* I-III” (2013), “The Role of History in Bestseller and Blockbuster culture” (2013), *Mord til tiden* (2013). Contact: gunhild@cgs.aau.dk