

## ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

### **Conference: “New Approaches to Bob Dylan – 4-5 October**

The conference “New Approaches to Bob Dylan”, brought experts from France, Norway, Finland, Ireland, the UK, the US, and throughout Denmark. Over two busy days, we compared a variety of methods for understanding Dylan’s art and impact. There is a distinguished history of scholarly work on Dylan. Textual scholars focus on his lyrics, parsing out their verbal artistry and identifying their numerous and far-flung sources. Historians and biographers try to clarify the details of Dylan’s life, and the chronologies that link him with other notable figures and movements. Social scientists, meanwhile, have focused on the cultures inspired by Dylan, the institutions and communities of fandom and appreciation which surround him. Our goal in this event was to break down the disciplinary silos that have kept these lines of work so separate, to think about how lyrics, performances, personal history, and mass movements all coincide and shape one another.



*Alastair Morrison at the conference “New Approaches to Bob Dylan”.*  
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### **Workshop: “The Precariat in Art and Culture” – 20-21 September**

In recent years, a cluster of related words – precarity, precariousness, precariat – have been repeatedly evoked to describe contemporary experience. Environmental catastrophe, the rise of temporary and insecure work, housing crises, and the vulnerability inherent in living with others have all been associated with some notion of precarity or precariousness in the recent and varied work of theorists including Judith Butler, Guy Standing, and Isabell Lorey. The workshop “The Precariat in Art and Culture” brought scholars from a range of international contexts together to ask new questions about the place of the literary and cultural sphere in discussions of precarity today. Participants from Denmark, Belgium, Sweden, Norway, the UK, and the US gave presentations and contributed to collegiate and expansive conversations across the two days of the event, and the various texts discussed. The urgent, underlying question which all the presentations, in one way or another, grappled with, was: ‘what can literature do?’. What emerged was a sense of the increasing theoretical sophistication of approaches to the topic, and the diversity of the literary writing that is engaging with it. New areas of future investigation, and new questions have become apparent too, most pressingly, perhaps, the methodological challenge of accounting for the way texts work with, to and through readers in precarious times.

### **Seminar with Professor Eric Hayot (Penn State): “The Elements of Academic Style” – August 31**



*Professor Eric Hayot visited UOL/SDU in August 2018.*  
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Professor Eric Hayot (Penn State), a former president of The American Comparative Literature Association and a leading figure in the current reassessment of literary methods, conducted a seminar at SDU. The seminar dealt with the topic of Writing for the Humanities and was attended by faculty and doctoral students from various fields. Drawing on material from his widely used monograph, *The Elements of Academic Style*, Hayot covered a wide range of topics, including the structure and organization of argument, rhetoric and style, and pitching writing to different audiences.

### **Assistant Professorship - Danish Institute for Advanced Study (D-IAS)**

As a result of UOL, an Assistant Professorship within the areas of UOL has been announced at the Danish Institute for Advanced Study (D-IAS) – the Assistant Professorship will be affiliated with UOL. The appointment is for four years with the possibility for a subsequent two years of employment as Associate Professor. The position is sponsored by, and located, at SDU.