

**Högre seminarium**

onsdag 16 februari 2022

kl 15.15-17 (i Comenius, Key-huset, med även via Zoom)

*Higher Seminar*

*Wednesday 16 February 2022*

*3.15 pm - 5 pm (in Comenius, Key Building, but also via Zoom)*

**Glancing Backward and Looking Ahead: Toward a Poetics of Looking**

Elin Käck (KLS/SKI, IKOS)

After a brief backward glance, where I summarize my scholarly work so far and establish my current vantage point, this talk will mainly look ahead, focusing on my research project *The Europe Trope*. More specifically, as the title indicates, it will investigate forms of *looking* in poetry. In their encounters with European cities and monuments, American poets have tended to emphasize looking, a practice which joins the poet, possessor of artistic *vision*, and the tourist, whose frivolous or educated looking may trace the same itinerary as that of the poet, but whose gaze is often thought to be of another order. This conflation of poet and tourist through the emphasis on *looking*—often further emphasized through italics or exclamation points—reveals anxieties and conflicting feelings about the status of the poet as well as the status of the site, or sight, itself. Is it even possible to make poetry out of the tourist site? Site, sight, and cite (as in citation) are forms that here seem to converge. Finally, to conclude (and if there is time!), I look even further ahead and present some thoughts on what I will be looking at next.