

War and Cinema at the Periphery

The role and meaning of cinemas in the
Nordic countries, 1935-1950

Movie Theatres in Wartime – Online Convention 19 Nov 2020

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Research aims

Term: “Cinema” defined as actual space and cultural institution (not as film)

Aim: How did the Second World War and Nazi Germany’s aggressive expansion alter the cinemas’ functions & meaning within societies?

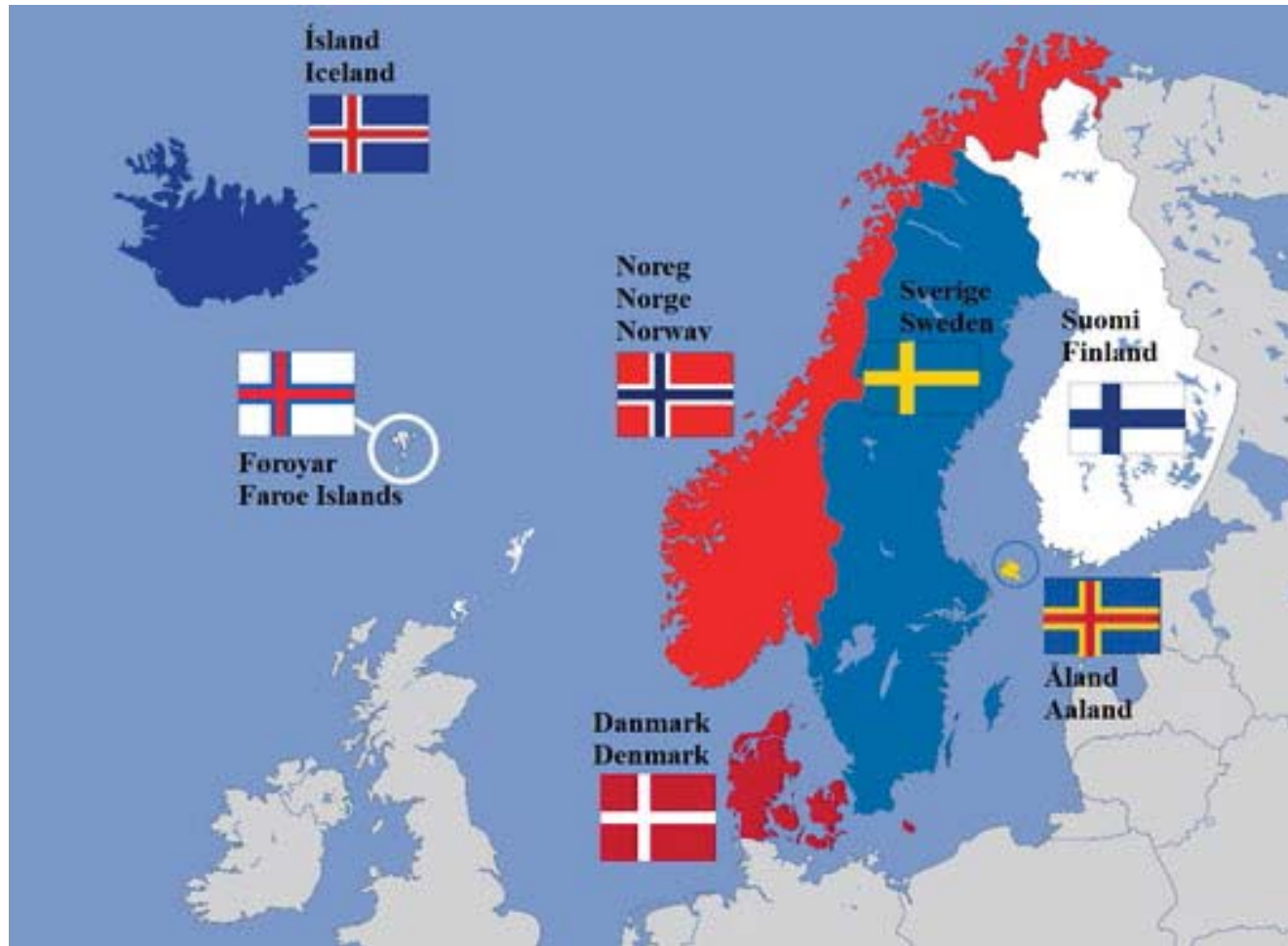
Methodology:

- comparative quantitative and qualitative analysis
- (ideally) digital mapping

Time frame

- Main focus on the Second World War
- Time frame expanded to include 5 years *before and after* the war (ca. 1935 – ca. 1950)
 - to trace changes and continuities
 - to identify transnational patterns
 - to analyse impact of political upheavals and interventions
 - to compare and assess the different national legacies of National Socialist cinema

Comparative approach



Research
themes/clusters

NAZISTERNE
BOMBER
DANSK
FILM

1) Discourse on cinema's role in society

VI

BOYCOTTER

TYSK FILM

Danish illegal poster.

Source: Frihedsmuseets fotoarkiv

2) Cinematic landscape



Hospital ship for German soldiers in occupied Norway

Source: Collections CEGESOMA Brussels



3) Cinema as experience and space of encounters and conflict

Riot outside a cinema in Kristiansand, Norway (1941)

Source: Private photo. Unknown photographer

4) Film exhibition



Still photo from the Swedish film *Snapphanar* (1941)

Source: svenskfilmdatabas.se



SNAPPHANAR

EDVARD PERSSON, GEORGE FANT, EVA
HENNING, OSCAR LJUNG, ÅKE OHBERG,
SVEN BERGVALL, GUNNAR SJÖBERG.



5) Cinema politics



Newly produced cars for the Norwegian Rural Cinemas (1950)

Source: Digitaltmuseum.no

Difficulties and open questions

1. How to «sell» the project to the financing bodies?
What makes this project interesting?
2. Geographical scope of project (language, availability of sources, manpower, ...)
3. Visualisation of research results (*digital history*)
4. How to deal with the absence of actual film?

We kindly ask for your help!
All advice, comments and tips are
gratefully received:

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