

Syllabus

		Lecture
wk 1	Mon 7 Oct	Introduction
wk 2	Mon 14 Oct	Narrative
wk 3	Mon 21 Oct	Genre
wk 4	Mon 28 Oct	Representation
wk 5	Mon 4 Nov	Intertextuality
wk 6	Mon 11 Nov	Transmediality
wk 7	Mon 18 Nov	Conclusions



Genres in Social Time and Place



Time and Place

All genres in crime drama are always rooted in particular historical periods and typically located in certain geographical areas, for example film noir existed in the 1940s and most films were based in and around Los Angeles or California.

This fact is never a mere accident

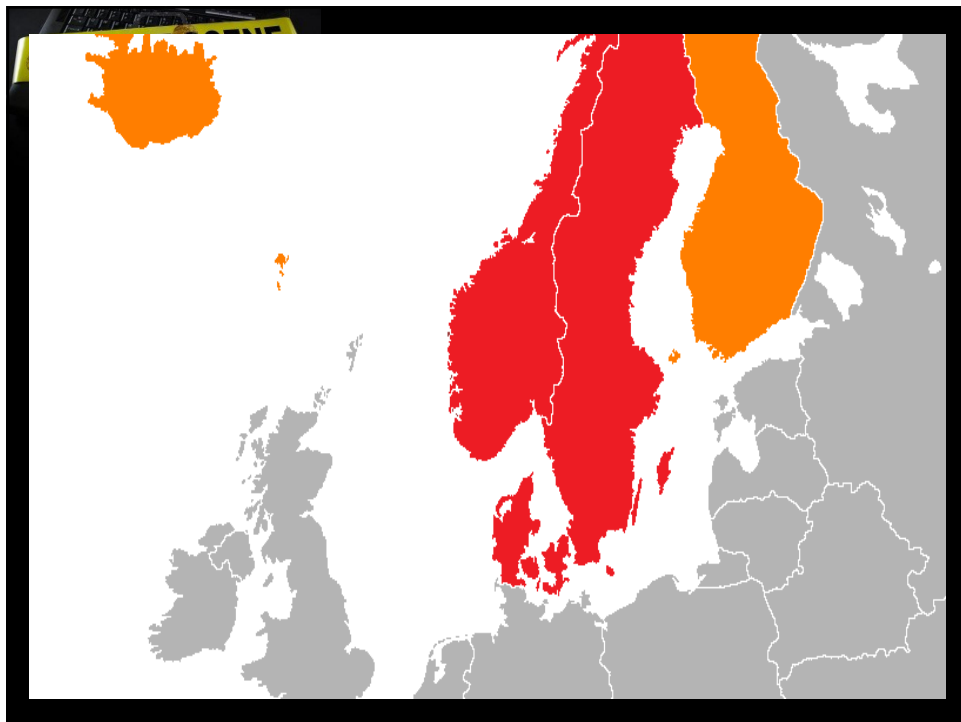
Genres are the product of certain social, cultural, political, economic conditions that tend to prevail in these places during the period in question

CRIME SCENE

Scandinavian or Nordic Noir

Where and what is 'Scandinavia'

In your groups discuss for 5 mins and write down
five things you know about Scandinavia
(without the use of your laptop), ie five facts





Northern European (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland)

Cold

Short daylight hours in the winter, long daylight hours in the summer

Most of these countries are either very rich or enjoy a high standard of living (Norway, for example is one of the wealthiest countries in the world, a wealth built on post-WW2 oil exploration in the North Sea)



Populations are predominantly white-Christian, although over the last 20 years there have been significant immigration of non-white-Christian peoples (Stockholm and Oslo are now regarded as multicultural cities)

Denmark is usually voted by its population as the 'happiest' country in the world

Norway has one of the highest suicide rates in the world



Extremely liberal, both politically and culturally during the post-war years, although increasingly right wing/conservative movements have become more important

Pioneers of the liberal welfare state (some of the best state-sponsored welfare systems in the world built on high taxes)

Significant underground Death Metal scene, especially in Norway and Iceland



Who is This?





Anders Breivik

Murdered over 70 people, mostly teenagers, in 2011 as a protest at the Norwegian Labour government's policy in immigration and its stance on multiculturalism

Right-wing fantasist

Left the nation traumatised



Scandinavian Noir

Began as a literary genre in Scandinavia in the 1980s with writers such as Henning Mankel, Stieg Larsson and Jo Nesbo

More recently a film and TV genre based on the works of these writers, for example the Wallander series



Characteristics

Detective dramas, usually about murder

Stark and often dark realism

Dark and often morbid themes, issues and storylines/narratives (murder, rape, incest, pedophilia, etc)

Central protagonist (the detective) is usually a troubled man, world weary, dysfunctional social life



Jar City (Iceland)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSdkE6CX9n4>

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Wallender

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J999uMLOEwY>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qplA6q76IMk>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QpgFaCQOnC>



Group Tutorials 21 OCT

	ET130	ET135
1.30	Group 5	Group 10
1.45	Group 1	Group 6
2pm	Group 2	Group 7
2.15	Group 3	Group 8
2.30	Group 4	Group 9

Each week, we will assign you a group task to be performed over lunch. Bring your completed task back to your group tutorials for discussion.

Tutorial times for today above. Each week we will rotate times for fairness, so make sure you note this down each week. Please be on time!



Lunchtime Task

Drawing on the material from last week's seminars and what we have discussed here trace the possible connections between filmic Scandinavian noir and the social context of the drama. Why should this genre emerge in Scandinavia in the 1980s and beyond? How is this relationship represented visually and stylistically, in its narrative structures, in its plots and storylines and themes? How do the central characters mirror this context?



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