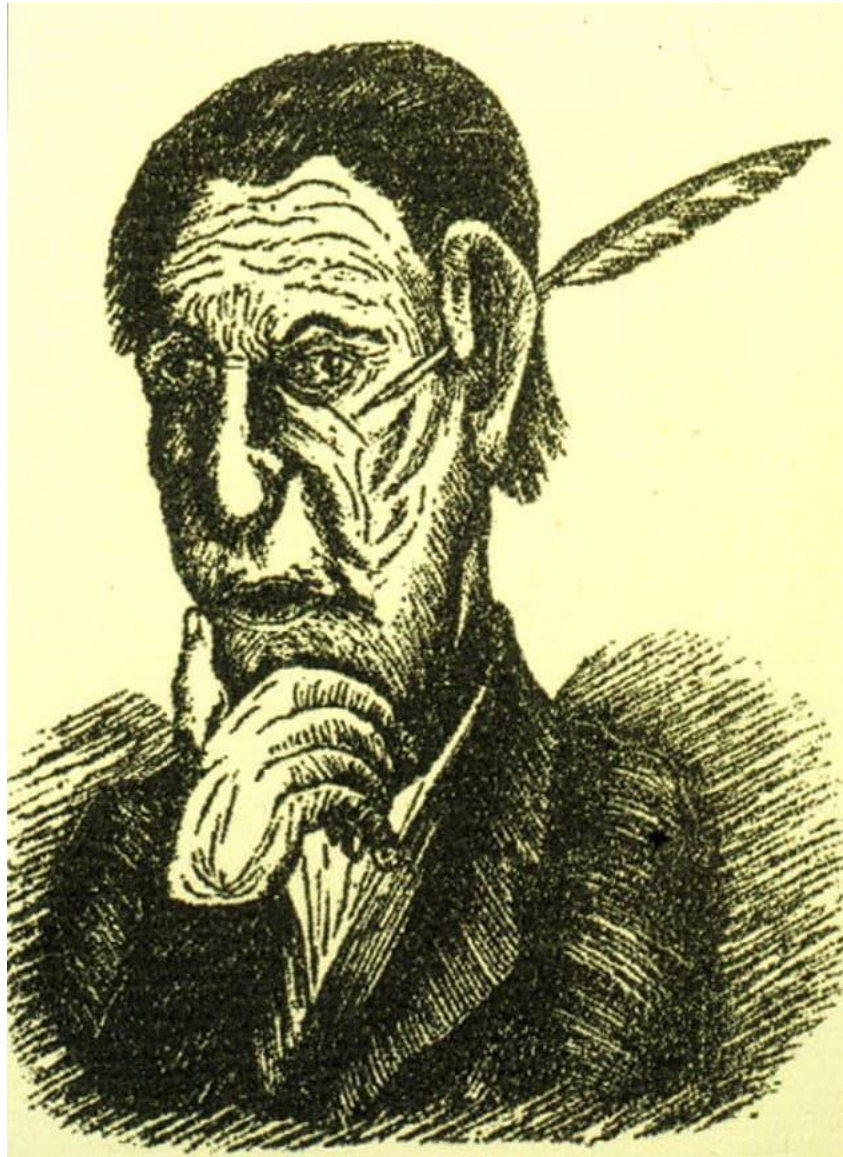


**Annual Report**  
**Centre for Ibsen Studies**  
**2019**



**“Handlinger og Træk af Stortinget” (6 April 1851)  
by Henrik Ibsen**

**University of Oslo**

## **Introduction**

2019 was a year marked by major transitions and significant consolidation at the Centre for Ibsen Studies (CIS). CIS, which was established in 1991, is an interdisciplinary center for research, teaching, dissemination, and documentation about Henrik Ibsen and his works.

Professor Frode Helland, who served as the head of CIS 2005–2010 and 2012–2018, took a leave of absence from his position in order to become dean of the Faculty of Humanities for a four-year term (2019-2022). While it is a great gain for the humanities as a whole, CIS definitely felt the absence of Helland. Moreover, a 2018 decision on the part of the Board of the Faculty of Humanities to re-evaluate the funding model for the Centre created a great deal of uncertainty about the future survival of the unit.

The Centre staff was also temporarily relocated to Niels Treschows hus while the CIS facilities on the second floor of Henrik Wergelands hus were renovated. This entailed boxing up and storing the CIS library collection, and the students and staff got to experience what the Centre would be like without it; our conclusion is that the library collection and space is the heart of the Centre and its lack was sorely felt.

Despite the potential for turmoil that so many transitions in such a brief span of time naturally entail, CIS was successful in consolidating its staffing by hiring one permanent 50% librarian, Kristin Kosberg, and one permanent 100% researcher responsible for maintaining the Centre's digital resources, Nina Evensen. These positions are essential to the success of CIS, and we thus entered 2020 much better prepared to fulfill our full mandate, particularly regarding documentation.

The following report goes into greater detail in the areas of research, teaching, dissemination, and documentation.

## 1. Facts and Figures

CIS is a semi-autonomous unit under ILN that has its own budget, head, and advisory council. The advisory council was not active in 2019.

Key Figures for 2019	
Master's program	1
Courses offered	8
Scientific staff	4.2
Ph.D. fellows	6
Administrative staff	1.5
Budget	8.572 million
Externally financed part of the budget	82%

## 2. Overview of Current Staff as of Fall 2019

The permanent administrative staff at CIS consists of one 100% senior executive officer and one 50% senior librarian. The permanent academic staff at CIS consists of three regular 100% positions with combined teaching and research duties and one 100% researcher position dedicated as the data steward for the center's digital holdings.

The limited-term academic staff at the center includes a four-year 100% position as head of center with combined teaching, research, and administrative duties, one renewable three-year professor II (20%) position, and one 30% research assistant who serves as editorial secretary for the journal *Ibsen Studies* and assistant to the researcher. Depending on funding, the center may also have Ph.D. fellows working on their dissertations or holding completion grants after the dissertation has been submitted.

As noted above, in 2019, Frode Helland commenced a four-year leave-of-absence from his professor position to serve as dean of the Faculty of Humanities. Ellen Rees, returning to the Centre after a four-year term as vice-dean for research and researcher training at the Faculty of Humanities, stepped in as acting head of CIS for spring semester and was on research leave during fall semester. In June 2019 Rees was appointed as the new head of CIS for a four-year term, with the agreement that she could complete her 2019-20 research leave as planned. Liyang Xia thus stepped in as acting head of CIS for fall semester 2019.

The fact that Helland and Rees took on administrative positions left two vacancies in the academic staff of the Centre, which necessitated the hiring of temporary replacements for the duration of their administrative terms. Unfortunately, it was not possible to complete these hiring processes in 2019. Instead, completing the hiring processes for the senior librarian and researcher positions was prioritized because filling these permanent positions had been long delayed pending the result of the Faculty Board's decision on the CIS funding model, which came in late 2018.

Name	Position	
Madelen Brovold	Ph.D. Fellow	100%
Giuliano D'Amico	Associate Professor	100% (permanent)
Gianina Druta	Ph.D. Fellow	100%
Nina Marie Evensen	Researcher (as of August 2019)	100% (permanent)

Frode Helland	Professor (on leave 2019-2022 to serve as Dean of Faculty of Humanities)	100% (permanent)
Julie Holledge	Professor II	20%
Thor Holt	Ph.D. Fellow	100%
Heidi Karlsen	Ph.D. Fellow	100%
Kristin Kosberg	Senior Librarian (previously temporary; made permanent during 2019)	50% (permanent)
Ellen Rees	Professor (acting head spring 2019)	100% (permanent)
Ragnhild Schea	Senior Executive Officer	100% (permanent)
Astrid Sæther	Associate Professor Emerita	
Sofie Stensnæs Engedal	Scientific Assistant	30% (5 months)
Hedvig Bergem Sjøiland	Scientific Assistant	30% (7 months)
Liyang Xia	Acting Head (fall 2019)	100% (4 months)

### 3. Research

2019 was a year of significant research activity at SIS, despite the unusually high level of uncertainty surrounding the future of the unit. Frode Helland published an important monograph, Giuliano D’Amico was extraordinarily active in building a number of research networks with the goal of applying for large external grants. D’Amico took the initiative to revitalize the cross-faculty research group on Book History and Reception Studies. In addition, he spearheaded and secured funding for an interdisciplinary research network focusing on late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century esotericism and aesthetics in the Nordic countries, with a strong emphasis on Ibsen, in addition to co-authoring a new history of Scandinavian literature in Italian. Rees continued to lead the Research Council of Norway-funded researcher project, “Data-Mining the Digital Bookshelf,” and was awarded research leave fall 2019 with the aim of developing a new, large-scale research project.

Importantly, four of the center’s six Ph.D. Fellows submitted their dissertations for external evaluation and permission to advance to the dissertation defense in 2019: Solace Sefakor Anku, Gianina Druta, Thor Holt, and Svein Henrik Nyhus.

#### Publications

We include permanent members of the academic staff (or their temporary replacements), the head of center, and Ph.D. fellows employed at CIS during 2019 for this category; thus, the researcher, research assistant, professor emerita, and professor II are not included. In total, CIS produced three peer-reviewed academic publication in 2019, including one monograph, for a total of 8.5 publication points according to the Norwegian bibliometric system (levels 1 and 2).

#### Peer-reviewed scholarly publications

Bangstad, Sindre and Frode Helland. 2019. “The Rhetoric of Islamophobia: An Analysis of the Means of Persuasion in Hege Storhaug’s Writings on Islam and Muslims.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 42, no. 13: 2229–47.

D'Amico, Giuliano. 2019. "Solguden and Other Stories. Hamsun, Ibsen and Forgery." *Edda* 106, no. 4: 249–263.

Helland, Frode. 2019. *Rasismens retorikk. Studier i norsk offentlighet*. Oslo: Pax forlag.

### **Non-peer-reviewed publications**

D'Amico, Giuliano. 2019. "Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson: Il Nobel Dimenticato" and "Henrik Ibsen. Verso una *Weltliteratur* norvegese." *Quaderni del premio Acerbi*: 55–61.

D'Amico, Giuliano. 2019. "La poesia del metallo nero." *The Passenger*: 139–149.

D'Amico, Giuliano. 2019. "Storia della letteratura norvegese dalle origini al 1800." In *Storia delle letterature scandinave*, edited by Massimo Ciaravolo. Milan: Iperborea.

D'Amico, Giuliano et al. 2019. "Fra Internasjonalisering til mangfold." *Nytt norsk tidsskrift*: 85–93.

Rees, Ellen. 2019. "Melodrama med mening." *Vagant* 1–2: 14–15.

### **Research presentations at scholarly conferences, seminars, and other institutions**

D'Amico, Giuliano. 2019. "Felix Bloch Erben and the Marketing of Ibsen's plays in Europe." The Golden Age of Norwegian Literature and the German Book Industry (Frankfurt, Germany).

D'Amico, Giuliano. 2019. "Hamsun og forfalskningens grenser." Hamsun og grenser/Hamsun and borders – the 7th International Hamsun Conference (Tromsø, Norway).

D'Amico, Giuliano. 2019. "Henrik Ibsen's *The Fantasy of Peer Gynt*. Drama and Theosophy in Britain." Approaching Esotericism and Mysticism: Cultural influences (Turku, Finland).

D'Amico, Giuliano. 2019. "Shamanism, Magic and Altered States in Håkan Sandell's Poetry." 7th International Conference for the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (Amsterdam, Netherlands).

D'Amico, Giuliano. 2019. "Solguden – forfalskning og litteraturhistorie, litteraturhistorie som forfalskning." Writing and Teaching Nordic Literary History (Venice, Italy).

D'Amico, Giuliano. 2019. "Solguden - Ibsen et la contrefaçon." IIIe Congrès de l'Association pour les études nordiques (Strasbourg, France).

D'Amico, Giuliano. 2019. "Strindberg Among Occultists: The Case of the Rider Editions." Literary Citizenship Conference (Oslo, Norway)

Druta, Gianina. 2019. "The Establishment of Henrik Ibsen's Play *Ghosts* in the Romanian theatre" – TaPRA: Industry Professionals/Professional Industry: European Legacies and Connections, History and Historiography Working Group (Exeter, UK).

Druta, Gianina. 2019. "The Establishment of Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* in the Romanian Theatre" IFTR World Congress (Shanghai, China).

Druta, Gianina. 2019. "The emergence of Ibsen on the stage of the National Theatre of Iași: State Dragomir (1870-1920)." ARSBN Conference on Baltic and Nordic Studies: Dissent versus Conformism in the Nordic, Baltic and Black Sea Regions" (Constanța, Romania).

Druta, Gianina. 2019. "The Influence of the Major Foreign Theatre Cultures upon Henrik Ibsen's Reception on the Romanian Stage" Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (Madison, Wisconsin, USA).

Holt, Thor. 2019. "Re-politicizing Ibsen in the Third Reich." The Golden Age of Norwegian Literature and the German Book Industry (Frankfurt, Germany).

Rees, Ellen. 2019. "Minoritetsdiskurser i norsk nasjonalromantikk." Seminar om minoritetsdiskurser/fortellinger om minoriteter (Oslo, Norway).  
 Rees, Ellen. 2019. "Ibsen and Norwegian Television Theater." Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (Madison, Wisconsin, USA).

### **In-house seminars and Annual Ibsen Lecture**

"On the Spanish Reception of A Doll's House, 1890-2010s," in-house seminar by Iris Muñiz (independent scholar), UiO, 19 March 2019.  
 "Ibsen's Reception in China," in-house seminar by Liyang Xia (independent scholar), 27 March 2019.  
 "Staging the Nineteenth Century: Ibsen, Hegel, Nietzsche," in-house seminar by Professor Kristin Gjesdal, Temple University, 26 April 2019.  
 "Tracts, Tragedy, and Trolls: Ibsen in the USA," in-house seminar by Assistant Professor Dean Krouk, University of Wisconsin, 28 August 2019.  
 "Forgotten Female Playwrights," in-house seminar by Lene Therese Teigen (writer-director), 26 September 2019.  
 "Ibsen's Contemporary Dramas in Hindi," in-house seminar by Astrid Ghosh (translator), 11 October 2019.  
 "Playing Hjørdis Today," in-house seminar with Kjersti Tveterås (actor), 31 October 2019.  
 Book launch for two books by Tam Kwok-kan, 14 November 2019.  
 A Discussion of the play *Wife* (2019), which was inspired by *A Doll's House*, Annual Ibsen Lecture by Samuel Adamson (theater director), 21 November 2019.

### **Visiting Scholars**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position and nationality</b>
Nilu Kamaluddin	Researcher, Norway
Xia Liyang	Researcher, Norway
Rezan Saleh	Researcher, Norway
Iris Muñiz	Researcher, Norway
Svein Henrik Nyhus	Researcher, Norway

### **4. Teaching**

CIS has had an interdisciplinary master's program in Ibsen Studies since 2004. The program is taught in English and attracts students from both Norway and around the world. The program consists of required and elective courses and a master's thesis. From 2010 to 2015 there were between 6 and 9 new students each year. When the Quota Program was shut down in 2016, the number dropped to only 3 or 4 per year.

In 2019 CIS saw a significant improvement in student recruitment and retention as a result of activities initiated the previous year. In 2018 CIS developed two courses taught in Norwegian as part of an effort to increase cooperation with the Scandinavian literature program at ILN and attract Norwegian students to our master's program. CIS also implemented a new recruitment strategy in 2018, which was followed up by an intense promotional campaign on the web in 2019. This included a promotional video, establishing and curating an engaging Facebook page for the Centre, and the development of an ad hoc newsletter to all institutions teaching Norwegian abroad. We believe that these efforts have directly contributed to an increase in enrollment, with 11 new students enrolled for fall 2019.

2019 also saw a renewed cooperation with the Norwegian institute in Rome, which hosted around 10 Ibsen students attending classes on *Brand* together with students of Scandinavian studies at the University of Rome. Ibsen lived for many years in Rome, writing a number of his most influential works there, so the opportunity to explore these connections significantly enriched the master's program in Ibsen Studies. This highly successful trip was conceived and organized by Giuliano D'Amico.

### Courses Taught

Course	Course title	Semester
IBS4000	Research Ethics, Information Resources and Advanced Academic Writing for Ibsen Studies (10 ECTS credits)	Fall 2019
IBS4001	Theoretical, Methodological, and Interdisciplinary Approaches to Ibsen Studies (10 ECTS credits)	Spring 2019
IBS4101	Henrik Ibsen's Works: History, Text, Performance (also offered at bachelor level as IBS2101) (10 ECTS credits)	Fall 2019
IBS4102	Henrik Ibsen's Oeuvre in the Perspective of its Reception History (also offered at bachelor level as IBS2102) (10 ECTS credits)	Spring 2019
IBS4204	Ibsen in Performance (also offered at bachelor level as IBS2204)	Fall 2019
IBS4205	New Perspectives in Ibsen Studies (also offered at bachelor level as IBS2205) (10 ECTS credits)	Spring 2019
IBS4210	Ibsen i praksis (taught in Norwegian; also offered at bachelor level as IBS2210) (10 ECTS credits)	Fall 2019
IBS4220	Ibsen og det moderne drama (taught in Norwegian; also offered at bachelor level as IBS2220) (10 ECTS credits)	Spring 2019

### 5. Dissemination

While the majority of CIS dissemination activities in 2019 were in scholarly arenas, two staff members were particularly active in reaching out to the general public. In addition to actively maintaining and developing the Centre's social media profile, Giuliano D'Amico gave public presentations in Norwegian and English. Additionally, Ph.D. Fellow Thor Holt took the initiative to establish public showings of rare cinematic adaptations of Ibsen's plays. These were well-attended and represent a new direction in the Centre's public outreach. CIS staff also contributed to the ILN program "Masters of Didactics" with a presentation of the digital resources and the library services, and an introduction to the digital teaching practices at the Center.

#### Public presentations

- D'Amico, Giuliano. 2019. "Ibsen i praksis. Nye ideer om Ibsen i skolen." Faglig-pedagogisk dag (Oslo, Norway)
- D'Amico, Giuliano. 2019. "Ibsen Studies 2.0. New Methodologies, Challenges and Perspectives" (University College London, UK)
- Holt, Thor. 2019. Public showing of and introduction to Detlef Siercks *Stützen der Gesellschaft* (1935), Cinemateket/Norsk filminstitutt, Oslo, 8 October 2019.

Holt, Thor. 2019. Public showing of and introduction to Victor Barnowskys *Peer Gynt* (1919), Filmsenteret Oslo, 16 September 2019.

Holt, Thor. 2019. Panel moderator for a discussion of a production of *Hærmændene på Helgeland* in conjunction with the Frankfurt Book Fair (Frankfurt, Germany).

## 6. Documentation

CIS has worked strategically to make its Ibsen documentation openly accessible through digital holdings, with the dual launch of the electronic edition of *Henrik Ibsens skrifter* and the relational performance database IbsenStage in 2014, followed by the establishment of the CIS net portal *The Virtual Ibsen Centre* in 2018. Because of uncertainty surrounding future financing from the Faculty of Humanities for CIS, the position responsible for updating and developing these resources was vacant from May 2018 through August 2019. For this reason, CIS placed strong emphasis on re-establishing and improving routines for digital documentation and developing a comprehensive strategy for further developing these resources. The portal for the digital resources, The Virtual Ibsen Centre, had a monthly rate of approximately 90 users in each of the two language versions. IbsenStage alone had 5,671 users in 2019, with 134,497 page views. The five countries with the most frequent use were the US (26.04%), Norway (21.34%), China (11.83%), Germany (8.25%), and the UK (2.76%).

With regard to the Centre's library, the work was significantly encumbered by the fact that nearly the entire collection was in storage. The need for a strategic plan was identified and work on this was initiated but not completed in 2019. The collection grew by twenty-nine new titles, including a gift from the library of the British publisher and art historian Tom Rosenthal, who owned an impressive collections of books on Ibsen. 145 new sources were registered in the International Ibsen Bibliography in 2019. The International Ibsen Bibliography was visited by 602 users from July to December 2019, with 3,337 page views and 637 sessions. 58.6% of the users of this digital resource had Norwegian IP-addresses.