

# English Language and Literature at Åbo Akademi University

- Åbo Akademi University is Finland's Swedish-language university
- 7000 students; 500 Master's degrees per year; 70 Doctoral degrees per year; 1300 teaching and administrative staff
- English Language and Literature: subject founded 1937; two professors plus an additional Research Professor at present; website:
  - [www.abo.fi/engelska/en](http://www.abo.fi/engelska/en); email [engelska@abo.fi](mailto:engelska@abo.fi)
- Partners sought for a jointly-edited issue of the *European Journal of English Studies (EJES)* to appear in 2014, with the proposed topic “English in the Baltic Sea Region”
- A major research project underway in the department: the Literary Communication Project (LitCom)
- I am Lecturer in English Literature in the department

# English in the Baltic Sea Region

- Why? Region crosses national boundaries and those between different areas of Europe; underexplored
- *EJES*: the scholarly journal of the European Society for the Study of English (ESSE); <http://essenglish.org/ejes>
- Three themed issues a year published, edited by teams of guest editors “ideally from different locations in Europe”
- Deadline for proposals for Volume 18 (2014): 11 November 2011
- Proposed theme, English in the Baltic Sea Region
  - Regional focus (trans-national)
  - English as a discipline and/or as a language
  - Contributions sought from people in cultural studies, linguistics, literary studies
  - Interested? Email me ([jfinch@abo.fi](mailto:jfinch@abo.fi))

# The Literary Communication Project (LitCom)

- Premise: “that writing which comes to be valued by a wide range of readers over long periods of time tends to be communicationally intransitive, dialogical and deferential, and that as a result it is [...] a form of *community-making*”
- See <https://www.abo.fi/student/en/researchenge>
- Directed by Roger D. Sell, H.W. Donner Research Professor of Literary Communication in the department: his *Communicational Criticism: Studies in Literature as Dialogue* is forthcoming from John Benjamins in 2011
- On 2-4 April 2012 the LitCom Project will host the 14th Conference of the International Association for Dialogue Analysis, with the theme “Literature as Dialogue”
  - More information and the CfP: [www.abo.fi/IADA](http://www.abo.fi/IADA)