**Association for Literary Urban Studies**

**Member meeting**

21 September 2018, 9.15-10.00

Tensta konsthall, Stockholm

**Present**: Jason Finch (Åbo Akademi University, chair), Lieven Ameel (University of Turku), Hanna Henryson (Uppsala University, secretary), Lydia Wistisen (Stockholm University), Caroline Merkel (Stockholm University), Juho Rajaniemi (Tampere University of Technology), Minna Chudoba (Tampere University of Technology)

**1. Activities 2017-2018**

Since the fall of 2017, the following activities have taken place within the network:

* 22-25 August 2017: ‘(Im)Possible Cities’ – The First International Conference of the ALUS, Tampere

The conference was well attended and successful in opening up numerous methodological discussions within the field of literary urban studies but also between literature researchers and researchers in cultural geography, city planning and architecture, not least thanks to the keynote speakers Eric Prieto and Ayona Datta as well as the joint panel discussion with the Re-City conference. A conference volume with the title *Literatures of Urban Possibility* is now in progress with a deadline for the writers at the end of November 2018.

* Fall of 2017: Establishing of the Palgrave Macmillan publication series *Literary Urban Studies*

Editors for the series are Lieven Ameel, Jason Finch, Markku Salmela and Eric Prieto. A few publications are in planning and proposals from different language areas and with different conceptual approaches are welcome.

* 22 September 2017: ‘Literature and the Multilingual City’, ALUS and the Under and Tuglas Literature Centre of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, Tallinn (symposium)
* End of 2017: Publishing of the conference volume *Literary Second Cities* edited by Jason Finch, Lieven Ameel and Markku Salmela
* 24 January 2018: General meeting of the ALUS, University of Turku

In recent years, ALUS as well as the association board has undergone an internationalisation. The board now consists of president Jason Finch (Åbo Akademi), vice president Lieven Ameel (University of Turku), secretary Anni Lappela (University of Helsinki), newsletter editor Chen Bar-Itzhak (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), members of the board without specific responsibilities Peter Jones (University of London), Silja Laine (University of Turku), Liam Lanigan (Maynooth University), Juho Rajaniemi (Tampere University of Technology), Markku Salmela (University of Tampere) and vice member Giacomo Botta (University of Helsinki).

* 29 May 2018: ‘The City: Myth and Materiality’, ALUS and the Institute of Historical Research (IHR), University of London (symposium)
* 13-14 September 2018: ‘Narva, an Industrial Border City: Literary reflections’, University of Tartu Narva College (symposium)
* 21 September 2018: ‘Large-Scale Housing Projects as Productive Space in Literature and Culture’, ALUS and Department of Culture and Aesthetics (IKE), University of Stockholm (symposium)

**2. Activities 2018-2019**

In the fall of 2018 and in 2019, the following activities are planned so far:

* 19 November 2018: Symposium ‘Imagining City Futures Across Disciplines’ (University of Turku, in conjunction with Lieven Ameel’s project at Turku Institute of Advanced Studies)
* 27 November 2018: General meeting of ALUS, Tampere
* 15 February 2019: ‘Simultaneity in the City’, University of Duisburg-Essen (symposium)
* September 2019: More informal symposium in Finland to replace a larger conference
* December 2019: Possibly a larger conference on Utopia and the city in Ireland

**3. Other information and issues**

* The board welcomes symposia and potentially also conferences arranged by ALUS members in different countries, also informal discussion meetings or text seminars with a small number of participants. However, a formalisation of the process of arranging symposia in the name of the ALUS is under discussion. As a first step, plans for such events should pass through the board to avoid unnecessary overlaps and the like.
* The board also encourages outreach, good examples being the 2017 Tallinn symposium where the writer Jan Kaus was present as well as today’s symposium held in Tensta konsthall in the large-scale housing project of Tensta in Stockholm.
* The online bibliography of the ALUS would benefit from further development and all members are welcome to contribute.
* The ALUS newsletter reaches quite a few readers and the book spotlight is a good means of marketing publications.