



# Kayd Somali Arts & Culture and Partners

Present

## Nordic Somali Week Festival in collaboration with Somali Cultural Days



1-4 December 2016 in Stockholm - Sweden

Kista Träff: Kista Torg 7, 164 42 - Sweden



# Nordic Somali Week Festival in collaboration with Somali Cultural Days



Kayd Somali Arts & Culture and partners are happy to present Nordic Somali Week Festival 2016 in collaboration with Somali Cultural Days. This inaugural event will be taking place from the 1st- 4th December in Stockholm in partnership with Kista Folkhögskolas. Nordic Somali Week Festival & Somali Cultural Days will highlight the experiences and accomplishments of Somalis residing in Sweden. Events include book launches, workshops, lectures and panel discussions, creating a platform for Somalis to celebrate their achievements and vocalise their lived experience through the arts.

The Somali community in Scandinavia has grown steadily since their arrival in the early-1990s. Sweden has over 50,000 citizens of Somali origin while in Finland people of Somali origin



are third largest ethnic group. With such a large and sudden influx of immigrants, integration has proven difficult for Somalis living in these regions. We will discuss the issues they face such as education disparities and mental health barriers. This festival will offer an opportunity to speak more about these barriers and to offer the

community solutions. There will also be workshops on organizational leadership and Somali language trainings for educators, among others.

Nordic Somali Week Festival brings both a celebration of culture and an opportunity to strive for better in the diaspora. This festival will bring together Somali artists, academics, poets, and community activists and the wider host community. Nordic Somali Week Festival, reflecting the socio-political climate in these countries will offer a space for engagement and exchange with the following schedule:

We will kick off Nordic Somali Week in Collaboration with Somali Cultural Days from 1-4 December 2016 in Stockholm.





# The Programme

**Thursday 1st December 2016**

**Somali Language Expressions  
Somali Language Training  
9.00-16.00  
Language : Somali and Swedish**

This day is dedicated to the evolution and discussion of the Somali language. We have brought together Somali language researchers to discuss the standardization of the written Somali language. Being a language that was written only in 1972, writing in Somali is a recent phenomenon.

For those living in Sweden, there has been an increase of Somali language classes available to mother tongue speakers and new learners. Currently, more than 400 Somali teachers are engaged within the Ministry of Education in Sweden to teach Somali at different levels. Gothenburg University recently introduced Somali courses and specialization for teachers training in Somali. The training on this day is geared towards Somali class assistants offering them workshops on teaching the Somali language. Some of these workshops will focus on grammar, tools for spelling, computational linguistics, math and science terminology.



Prof. Abdalla Omar Mansuur, was the former head of the College of Languages at the Somali National University. He recently worked as a Professor of Arabic Language at University of Rome Tre. Professor Mansur's research interests include both Arabic and Somali languages and literature. He is also the author of several books and book chapters.

Zainab Dahir is a secondary school teacher and a storyteller working in the UK. She is an activist and a promoter of Somali language and Somali heritage among Somali children raised in the UK. Zainab runs her own organization, Galool where she publishes teaching resources for teaching and learning Somali.



Dr. Morgan Nilsson is a linguist from the University of Gothenburg. He has a PhD in Eastern European languages. He is currently working on Somali language and literature with his research focus on the grammatical aspect of the language. Dr. Nilsson has carried out research, published articles, and teaches Somali for Somalis in Sweden.



Dr. Jama Musse Jama is an ethno-mathematician and author. He has a PhD in African Studies specializing in Computational Linguistics of African Languages. He has created and currently directs the Somali Corpus, an online platform to manage a corpus database for Somali language.

## Opening Night Ceremony

18.00-21.00

The opening ceremony will introduce the festival to the community. We will have our opening lecture by Sh. Maxamoud Sh. Dalmar. This will then be followed by the launch of Prof. Abdalla Mansuur's newly published second edition of Taariikhda Afka iyo Bulshada Soomaaliyeed.

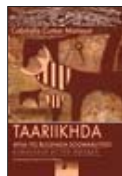


Sh. Maxamoud Sh. Dalmar, is a senior journalist and Islamic scholar. He is the author of Irdho, his first book-length satirical work, a book consisting of a poem of almost 900 verses about an imaginary fictionalized story about the Somali language, traveling to Europe, and seeking asylum in the UK.

## Book Launch

Taariikhda Afka iyo Bulshada Soomaaliyeed

Prof. Abdalla Omar Mansuur will present on the recently published second edition, of his scholarly work, Taariikhda Afka iyo Bulshada Soomaaliyeed (History of Somali Society and Language). The new edition contains an expanded chapter on the linguistics of the Horn of Africa, a map and an index.



Friday, 2nd December

## Reflections on the Somali Swedish Community

09.00-16.00

This day will bring together local Somali Swedish community members. We will break the day up into sessions dedicated to discussing education, perceptions of Somalis in the media and mental health. The purpose of this day is to speak about integration of Somalis in Sweden but also to voice the realities and concerns of the community.

### Opening Lecture

9:30-10.30

Opening Lecture by Sh. Maxamoud Sh. Dalmar who will speak about the realities of the Somali diaspora community.

Sh. Maxamoud Sh. Dalmar – is a senior journalist and an Islamic scholar. He is the author of Irdho, his first book-length satirical work, a book consisting of a poem of almost 900 verses about an imaginary fictionalized story about the Somali language, traveling to Europe, and seeking asylum in the UK.

### Panel 1: Somalis in Education

The barriers facing Somalis in Swedish society in the education sector will be discussed in this session. Speakers include:

**Dr. Muna Elmi** holds a PHD in Neuroscience from Gothenburg University. She will speak about the difficulties and obstacles in pursuing higher education.



**Dr. Morgan Nilson** is a professor at Gothenburg University, focusing on the Somali corpus linguistics. He will speak more about Somali language courses being offered at Gothenburg University.

**Dr. Abdullahi Elmi (Asad)** is an Educational expert with a focus on organizational management. He will speak to the realities of Somalis in Higher education.



## Panel 2: Perceptions of Somalis in the Media

In recent years, Somalis have come under strict scrutiny from the international media, which continue to draw on negative stories that fuel stereotypes associated with Somalis today. With that said, there are various ways in which Somalis are choosing to deal with this negative imagery. This conversation will bring together various community stakeholders to discuss how to challenge this negative imagery and what they have done about it.

Among our guests we will have:

**Dr. Idil Osman**, has a Phd from Cardiff University in Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies. She will speak more about media perception of Somalis in Europe.



**Rashid Musa** is a community activist who will speak to the perception of Somalis in Swedish media.

**Bilan Osman** is a community activist, who will speak to her experiences around discrimination and islamophobia



**Helen Ardelius** is a journalist who hosts a cultural program about Somali poetry. She will speak more about her program and offer a mainstream media perspective.

## Panel 3: A Conversation on Mental Health

This session is dedicated to speaking more about the mental health sector. Mental Health is becoming a prevalent issue in our community but stigma still discourages many from actively seeking care. Join us for this conversation with Dr. Aden to learn more about

Speaking on this issue, we will have with us Dr. Yakoub Aw Aden Abdi, MD, specialist in clinical pharmacology and psychiatry.



Friday 2nd December

## The Present, The Past and the Future: Lecture by Sh. Mustafe, Somali Translated Work & Second Generation Somali- Swedes Speak Back

For the evening, we will have multiple generations take the stage. We will start off with a lecture on Islamic and cultural affairs by Sh. Mustafe. Following that, the poetry of Hadraawi, Gaariye, and Dheeq will be read in both Somali and English. The night will culminate with a panel of young Somali Swedes presenting and discussing their artistic expression.

### Lecture by Sh. Mustafe Xaaji Ismail

Sh. Mustafe is based in Hargeisa, Somaliland and is one of the most popular religious scholars.



### Somali Translated Work & Second Generation Somali - Swedes Speak Back

This session will bring together Somali writers and poets who are using their pen as their greatest weapon.

The night will start off with readings of the work of renowned Somali poets Hadraawi, Gaariye and Dheeg. In the past couple of years, their work has been translated into English, and on this night we will present the English and Somali translations of the work. We will have with us Bill Herbert, who will present the translations.



Bill Herbert is a professor of poetry and creative writing at Newcastle university in the UK.

The second portion of the night session is dedicated to young Somali-Swedish artists. They will speak more about how their identity is fuelled by their work. The following artists will present their work: Muna Monassar and novelist; Fartun Ahmed Hashi, poet.



These artists will discuss their work, their inspiration and will perform.



## Saturday 3rd December

### Family Activities: Children's Program, Parent's Session, Creative Writing Workshop

10.00- 13.00

The first part of this day is dedicated to children and their parents. For young kids there will be storytelling, relaying stories in both Somali and Swedish and face painting. There will be traditional Somali games, such as Shax, Layligoobalay as well.

#### Children's program:

This Saturday morning is dedicated to children between the ages of 5-13. Zainab Dahir will join Musa M Isse and Nimco Noor in activities and programs dedicated to young Somali children. All three facilitators of this program regularly work with young Somali children and are dedicated to their Leading this program will be those who have written children's books and work with Somali children born in the diaspora.

Musa M Isse is an author of children's books and the Editor of Caruurteenna, a children's magazine in Sweden.



Nimco Noor is a childbook writer and child entertainer from Finland  
Zainab Dahir: is a teacher, and runs her own organization, Galool where she publishes teaching resources for teaching and learning Somali.

#### Parent's Session:

While the kids will be entertained, this session is dedicated to parents. We will have with us Abdalla Shafay, a lecturer and writer on parenting issues and Mohamed Hassan. They will offer parents advice on the best way to support their children's future.

During the last hour, Dr. Asli Kulane will speak about Children's Health and Vaccinations.



Abdalla Shafay; is a writer on parenting issues and lecturer.  
Mohamed Hassan is a modern language teacher

Dr. Asli Kulane has a PHD in immunology from Stockholm University. Her research interests include Tuberculosis and Migration.



## Creative Writing Workshop

This workshop will bring together writers that are looking to hone to their craft. They will be offered tips and various skills to encourage them to write. This workshop promises to be fruitful, with Dr. Jama Musse Jama, scholar, publisher and writer leading the workshop with Mohamed Hassan.

## Saturday 3rd December

### Presentations and Conversations on Somali Literature 16.00- 21.00

#### New Book Launches:

Kicking off the evening we will have Mubaarik Gaashaan and Musa M. Isse presenting their new work.

Mubaarik will speak more about his current book, Fijiyaayo.



Musa will present the new edition of Caruurteena, a children's magazine published regularly in Sweden. He will also present his newly published book, Barni iyo bisaddeedii Milgo (Barni and her cat Milgo).

#### Conversation with Said Jama Hussein with Musa M Isse



Said Jama Hussein, is a writer and a longtime supporter of the arts. He is the author of Safar Aanjiho lahayan, This edition includes new stories describing the imagined travels of the author. He is the former vice chair of Somali Pen. He is a Trustee of Kayd Somali Arts & Culture.

#### Conversation with Rashid Sh. Abdullahi

Rashid Sh. Abdullahi is an art critic, writer and historian. He is a trained sociologist. He is the author of Adduun Iyo Taladii. He is the former chair of the Somaliland Genocide Commission. He is also a Trustee of Kayd Somali Arts & Culture.



## Book Launches

The evening will culminate with presentations of recently published works in Somali. The authors will speak briefly on their book. Among some of the writers presenting their work are:

- Yussuf Hassan
- Sayid Axmed
- Musa M Isse
- Maxamed Xirsi Guuleed
- Maxamed Sheekh Xasan
- Suldaan Maxamed Ibrahim
- Nimco Nuur
- Cabdalla Shafey
- Jama Musse Jama
- Sheekh Cumar Bile
- Cali Adan
- Mubaarik Xoosh Gaashaan



## Sunday 4th December

### Trainings & Closing Ceremony

08.00-14.00 Training

The closing day will start off with a series of mini courses. Courses offered will be on how to run community driven organizations.

*Registration is required*

### Closing Ceremony

18.00- 21.00

The finale to Nordic Somali Week Festival- Sweden is not to be missed! Concluding the program will consist of lectures by our esteemed guests. We will end the ceremony with live entertainment and a play.



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