



# STRÖMSTAD AKADEMI

*Nordiskt institut för avancerade studier*

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

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## Anders Gustavsson: Editor's Corner

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**Physicist Lars Broman** writes his last report as Vice-Chancellor of Strömstad Academy.

**Surgeon and Chairman of the Board Peter Fritzell** reports on important events within Strömstad Academy during the year 2020.

**Information System Scientist Per Flensburg** takes over as the new Vice-Chancellor of Strömstad Academy on 1 January, 2021. In his report, he presents his plans with the Academy's future in mind. The newly appointed marketing group will be given an important task in future work.

December's chronicle in Strömstads Tidning on 19 December was written by **educator Åsa Morberg**. She argues for the maintenance of schools in rural areas.

Proposals for new chronicles in Strömstads Tidning should be sent to **Mariana Back** [mariana.back@tekniskamuseet.se](mailto:mariana.back@tekniskamuseet.se).

**Economist John Fletcher** comments on the historian KG Hammarlund's post in the previous Newsletter. Fletcher also continues his article series with the theme "What Happens to Our Welfare?" This time the theme is This is where we are!

**Educator Åsa Morberg** is the author of Acta Academiae Stromstadiensis 54 with the title [Academic personal essay as dynamic scientific writing: a research and developmental project for students studying to become teachers in finding their professional identities](http://stromstadakademi.se/AAS/AAS-54.pdf), <http://stromstadakademi.se/AAS/AAS-54.pdf>

**Ethnologist Anders Gustavsson** is the author of Acta Academiae Stromstadiensis 55 with the title [Women and Men in Fishing Communities on the Swedish North-West-coast](http://stromstadakademi.se/AAS/AAS-55.pdf), <http://stromstadakademi.se/AAS/AAS-55.pdf>

<http://stromstadakademi.se/AAS/AAS-55.pdf>

**Researcher within technics and social change Lars Ingelstam** has published the book *Systemen, överflödet och det gemensamma*, 317 pp, Atlas akademi/Premiss Stockholm 2020. ISBN 978-91-8907708-9.

**Business economist Rune Wigblad** emphasizes in a debate article in Strömstads Tidning the lower maintenance costs of magnetic trains in the future compared to high-speed trains with a top speed of 250 kilometers per hour.

**Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist** is responsible for the pre-publication series, PPS, where number 2-3 have been published with the titles

No 2 [Isolation of ribonucleic acids from cells stored at ambient conditions following critical-point drying and inspection under scanning electron microscope](#), Rojin Bozkurt, Rolf Nybom, Lennart Wetterberg, and Håkan Karlsson.

No 3 [GRIN3B and PCSK4 gene variants on chromosome 19p13.3 in therapy-resistant schizophrenia that exhibits clozapine-responsiveness: Case report of four patients](#), Eva Lindholm Carlström, Jonatan Halvardson, Sven Ove Ögren, Lars Feuk, Lennart Wetterberg,

**Psychologist Gudrun Olsson** has in the video series SAV 19 published the lecture I metaforernas landskap. Om livet, döden och kärleken. [http://stromstadakademi.se/SAV/SAV-19\\_Olsson.pdf](http://stromstadakademi.se/SAV/SAV-19_Olsson.pdf)

**Literary scholar Torsten Rönnerstrand** has in the video series SAV 20 published the lecture Elena Ferrante. [http://stromstadakademi.se/SAV/SAV-20\\_Ronnerstrand.pdf](http://stromstadakademi.se/SAV/SAV-20_Ronnerstrand.pdf)

**Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist** reports on the work in the local chapters during the fourth quarter of 2020 and presents an annual report on the work of the Editorial Committee.

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson  
Layout: Per Flensburg

**Pharmacologist and Secretary Marylou Wadenberg** reports on the work of Strömstad Academy's working/executive committee/AU during the fourth quarter of 2020.

**Psychologist Gunnar Windahl** has in the Free Series FFS published no 16 with the title [Gunnar Windahls samlade nedslag i beteende- och samhällsforskning i Strömstad Akademis Nyhetsbrev åren 2015- 2020](#),

I want to urge a previous call for all members to verify and complete their personal information on the Academy website. Also try to recruit new members to the Academy, not least young scholars. Please, send suggestions to: [lars.broman@stromstadakademi.se](mailto:lars.broman@stromstadakademi.se)

I wish new contributions to the January issue 2021 of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 27 January 2021: [anders.gustavsson@ikos.uio.no](mailto:anders.gustavsson@ikos.uio.no). Send short articles, opinion articles and/or reviews of new scientific literature. Swedish contributions should have an English translation.

Please, also send contributions to the Academy's publication series Acta Academiae Stromstadiensis, AAS, and the video series to the e-mail address:

[gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com](mailto:gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com)

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## Lars Broman: From your Vice-Chancellor

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So now it is time for me to write a Good-Bye-Chronicle as a Vice-Chancellor. But as of 1 January when I am no longer Vice-Chancellor, I will be more free to write, expressing my own personal opinions not having to take the Academy into consideration regarding the content in my texts. And so, those of you that are reading the Newsletter on a regular basis will surely find texts written by me also in the months to come.

Editor Anders has asked me to write a little about the history of the Academy from the start up until now. I have written about the creation of the Academy, an initiative taken by Aadu Ott, Erik Hofrén and me, in the anthology with the title Inre och yttre Verklighet, 2011, [www.stromstadakademi.se/AAS/AAS-1.pdf](http://www.stromstadakademi.se/AAS/AAS-1.pdf), chapter 1, pp 4-8, and so I refer to those pages that you are welcome to read if interested. In my memoirs – if they will ever be completed! - there is an almost completed chapter entitled Strömstad akademis första 10 år. An excerpt from this chapter shows that the first 6 members at the start on 10 September 2008 had grown into as many as 27 fellows that were inaugurated at our first Academic Ceremony in Fars Sal, Strömstad City Hall on 26 June 2009. Today, we are a little over 100 members – Honorary Professors, Appointed and Supporting Fellows.

Over the years, the yearly Academic Festivals, being held right before or right after the Swedish Midsummer Holidays, have played an important part. They included our Annual Meeting and some festivities for members and their guests, as well as brief popular scientific presentations that were also open for the public. Presentations held the first 10 years can be found in the publication entitled Presentationer under Strömstad akademis akademiska högtider 2009-2018, [www.stromstadakademi.se/FSS/FSS-12.pdf](http://www.stromstadakademi.se/FSS/FSS-12.pdf). Leafing through this publication reading all the headings makes you wish you were there to listen! This year there was no Academic Ceremony and Festival because of the pandemic, but presentations from the previous year, 2019, can be found in the publication Abstracts of papers presented at the Scientific Festival in Strömstad 17-20 June 2019, [www.stromstadakademi.se/FSS/FSS-11.pdf](http://www.stromstadakademi.se/FSS/FSS-11.pdf).

Right from the start we have also had monthly electronic Newsletters. Those from the last 6 years can be found at [www.stromstadakademi.se/wp2/nyheter/](http://www.stromstadakademi.se/wp2/nyheter/). Starting in 2011, the electronic writing series Acta Ac-

ademiae Stromstadiensis has been published and now has 55 titles. Beginning in 2013 the electronic Free Writing Series has been published – today holding 16 titles. New series are Pre-prints and Videos – in the latter you will find my presentation Strömstad akademi. Tillkomst och historia [www.stromstadakademi.se/SAV/SAV-16\\_B-roman.pdf](http://www.stromstadakademi.se/SAV/SAV-16_B-roman.pdf) that was recorded in October this year. All items can be found on our website [www.stromstadakademi.se](http://www.stromstadakademi.se).

Over the years we have carried out a few special projects leading up to the publication of an anthology, please see our website. The first and largest one was based on the project Barnbarnens århundrade initiated in 2013 and with 30 members being part of the project. "Barnbarnens århundrade" refers to the 21st century and those of us now active in the Academy will only be able to experience a small part of this century, whereas our grandchildren may be able to live to experience the end of this century. The anthology was published as a hardcover book in 2016 and in the AAS-series in 2017, [www.stromstadakademi.se/antologier/Barnbarn.pdf](http://www.stromstadakademi.se/antologier/Barnbarn.pdf). We have also hosted an international conference, 12th International Symposium of Renewable Energy Education IS-REE 2017 with participants from six different continents of the world, [www.stromstadakademi.se/antologier/ISREE.pdf](http://www.stromstadakademi.se/antologier/ISREE.pdf).

I want to thank all Fellows working to make Strömstad Academy the outstanding Institute for Advanced Studies that we are today. My role in all this has mainly been to build bridges between you all – in other words I have tried to match my last name "Broman". Those have been amazing years that I have been privileged to work with you. And it is not over yet – I plan to remain an active Fellow after January 1, 2021!

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## Report from the Chairman

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Colleagues,

December has continued to focus on Covid-19. The whole year has been marked by this pandemic, but now we have been given hope in the interesting development of a vaccine. Never has the research community been so united and collaborated so intensively on the development of a pharmaceutical product. Instead of, as usual, keeping their discoveries secret to gain economic benefits, all companies and other actors have immediately shared their knowledge. It is in the same way that I see that Strömstad Academy works. Interdisciplinary, open, transparent, and humble. Quite simply, comprehensive and supporting.

For example, the anthology "Researcher careers" was published in May by our publisher. Here, thirteen researchers reflect on their actions, what they did right and what could have been done differently. The book is a goldmine for younger researchers who are about to give many years of their lives in the service of research. You can find the anthology, and also other anthologies, both on the Website; <http://stromstadakademi.se/wp2/publikationer-2/antologier/>, and it can be ordered via e.g. <https://www.boktugg.se/forlag/46119/>

The anthology activities have continued at an agreed pace, and during the first half of 2021, the Editorial Committee, led by Gudmund Bergqvist, expects to be able to publish the current anthology "Epidemics", where more than ten members discuss the topic from both a current and historical perspective.

Several publications have been presented in the AAS writing series, led by Anders Gustavsson and Gudmund Bergqvist, as well as video lectures. You can find the material via the Website; <http://stromstadakademi.se/wp2/publikationer-2/>

Several local chapters, and during the last quarter, especially the one in Gothenburg, have together with Rotary ([https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotary\\_International](https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotary_International)), presented a Webinar series with interesting topics. For example, honorary professor Annica Dahlström had a presentation on 7/12; "He, she and the brain".

I encourage all local chapters to consider the possibility of participating in each other's presentations, and to create their own lecture and discussion webinars where everyone in the Academy can participate. It should be a winning concept in the current situation, but also in the future. On 27/1, for example, the Falun Chapter tentatively expects to be able to offer a Webinar under the heading "Pandemics in history, today and in the future", with the participation of both Tomas Bergström and Bode Janzon as presenters, and where the Academy members are welcome to participate. These events will take no more than 1.5 hours.

Interdisciplinary projects have continued to be discussed via "Brainstorm" meetings online, and currently two are underway under the leadership of 1. Carl Olivestam and 2. Marie-Louise Wadenberg. Several other groups are starting up. Activities such as these with a focus on "workshop" should be what the Academy focuses on in the future.

To create an accepted "basis" in these activities, the "Future Group" has worked to develop proposals for a structure that can be used as administrative assistance both internally and externally. The whole year has been largely characterized by discussions between the "Future Group" and AU. The group has submitted several reports that describe how they view both the work that is being done in the Academy up till today, and how they believe it should be done in the future. Much is about describing a structure that is relevant when the Academy in various contexts applies for grants, be it within the framework of various research projects or to the Academy.

The group's report was discussed at the extra Annual Meeting in October, when it was presented in the form of a motion. Since then, the work has continued, both within the group and within AU, and in collaboration, to compile what is deemed relevant for the Academy to use in its activities.

A final summary will be presented to the Board in March 2021, and to the Annual Meeting this summer/fall. I and AU would like to thank Åsa Morberg and John Fletcher in the F-group for an important work.

We believe that the points that the group has proposed about the structure of various assignments can be used to the advantage of the Academy.

AU has, after internal discussion and after some additions, supported the group's proposal for the writing;

*1. A proposal is suggested regarding an activity in the Academy. Here it does not matter how the 'suggestion' is initiated. It can be a project initiated by a group or an individual member.*

*2. The proposal is taken up for decision at the appropriate level: AU / Board / the annual meeting's assignment to the Board. Between Board Meetings and Annual Meetings, this means that the most practical thing should be for the proposal to be discussed with AU, which has the task of working based on the decisions of the Annual Meeting and the Board.*

*3. After a decision, a preliminary description of the assignment is formulated. Here, for example, AU and the proponent can work together.*

*4. All members of the Academy are invited to participate in the project. Information and marketing are important.*

*5. Interested members form a project group and process the assignment formulation together with the 'client' (AU / Board). The central aspect is which strategic question to answer. Once the final assignment is agreed on, the work starts. It is important to*

*establish a reasonable level of ambition based on the conditions that exist. At this stage, an impact assessment should be carried out about possible developments.*

*6. With reference to point 5, there must be an understanding that, during the work process, circumstances may arise which mean that the assignment must be changed. This is then discussed with the employer and a modified assignment is formulated.*

It has been discussed in AU that continued work with focus on the future could be handled by a group of members under the name "Utvecklingsgruppen" (Development group)? It will be a matter for the Board, and AU is preparing the issue for its next meeting in March. Possibly, after ongoing information, decisions can be made "per capsulam" beforehand.

Something that was also discussed extensively in AU during the year has been, and continues to be, the economy, and which funds and foundations may be relevant when applying for funding to research projects. A summary list of such, to the aid of our members, has been compiled and will soon be available internally on the Website.

AU's work is available in quarterly (Q4) summaries on the Website, and in the Newsletter, which is published every month under the direction of Anders Gustavsson (ed).

The website has continued to be developed under Per's management. Carina Blom, previously helpful with the accounting, but this work has now been assumed by our "new" treasurer, KG Hammarlund, has been appointed to help out with the website work from the turn of the year. Carina is an experienced web editor and is currently responsible for the website of the Swedish Back Surgery Association.

An interesting question for an Academy that continues to grow, several new members have been added during the year, is how we can be allowed to get in touch with each other. There are two phalanxes today, one

which means that it should not be possible to have access to all members' e-mail addresses because it could mean an unnecessary burden via members' "mail baskets", and one phalanx which means that it should be possible to find all members' e-mail addresses via information on the internal, logged in, page. We will see what the Board / Annual Meeting ultimately recommends.

In this context, I would also like to ask all members to send their updated CV to the Web Editor Per Flensburg, so that these can be made available on the Website. Assume that only one A4 page is needed; a picture and then a brief description with regard to merits and interests and ongoing activities. A link to publications and other material can be attached.

Some important events in the Academy in 2020.

In January, as previously announced, one of the Academy's founders and central figure, Aadu Ott, passed away. His memory, and importance for the Academy, is preserved in grateful memory!

The Academy's initiator, Lars Broman, had his 80th birthday in October, and in December another crucial member, Anders Gustavsson, did the same.

To list all those who laid the foundation, and contributed to the continued activities of Strömstad Academy, not least the head of translation Marie-Louise Wadenberg, is not the purpose of this summary. I thank all of you who have contributed/and continue to contribute, to both ongoing and future activities! I feel proud to have represented Strömstad Academy during the past year.

**Reflection 1.** Christina Hultman, our recently elected Deputy Chair (see previous Newsletter), is on the road to improvement. However, it is "a bit left" and Mariana Back, our current Deputy Chair, has agreed to continue to function as such during at least the first quarter of 2021, possibly until the Annual Meeting this summer.

**Reflection 2.** Anders Gustavsson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Strömstad Academy. An important person for (for example) working on the continued publishing of writings from all members of the Academy has turned 80 years. Anders is imperative to the Academy. As usual, "the years" do not matter in Strömstad Academy! We do not work based on age, but instead based on knowledge and how we can best communicate this knowledge to all stakeholders.

**Reflection 3.** Per Flensburg, our new Vice-Chancellor and responsible for the Website, has done a fantastic job and the Academy has secured this to be continued through engaging Carina Blom.

**Reflection 4.** The Editorial Committee under the chairmanship of Gudmund Bergqvist has been, and is, crucial for the Academy's activities. Scientific papers are regularly published via AAS on the Academy website; <http://stromstadakademi.se/wp2/publikationer-2/aas/>

**Reflection 4.** At the turn of the year, Lars Broman will end his "rectorship" at Strömstad Academy. Lars has been, and is, a special person. He is a thinker and a "doer" in a particular division. During the past year, we have paid tribute to Lars with, among other things, an anthology which is available on the Website via AAS publications and anthologies.

Thank you, Lars, and thank you again! We will try to manage your and your co - creators' (from Carl Olivestam and Aadu Ott) creation/concept of Strömstad Academy in accordance with your intentions!

**Reflection 5.** It is not possible to name all the members who worked/work in the spirit of the Academy! "No one mentioned and no one forgotten" as the saying goes in a Swedish proverb. So many thanks to all of you!

#### Summary;

Many thanks to all colleagues and supporting members for your efforts during the past year!

Being able to be a part of all your efforts has been a privilege!

Hoping for a good 2021

Peter Fritzell

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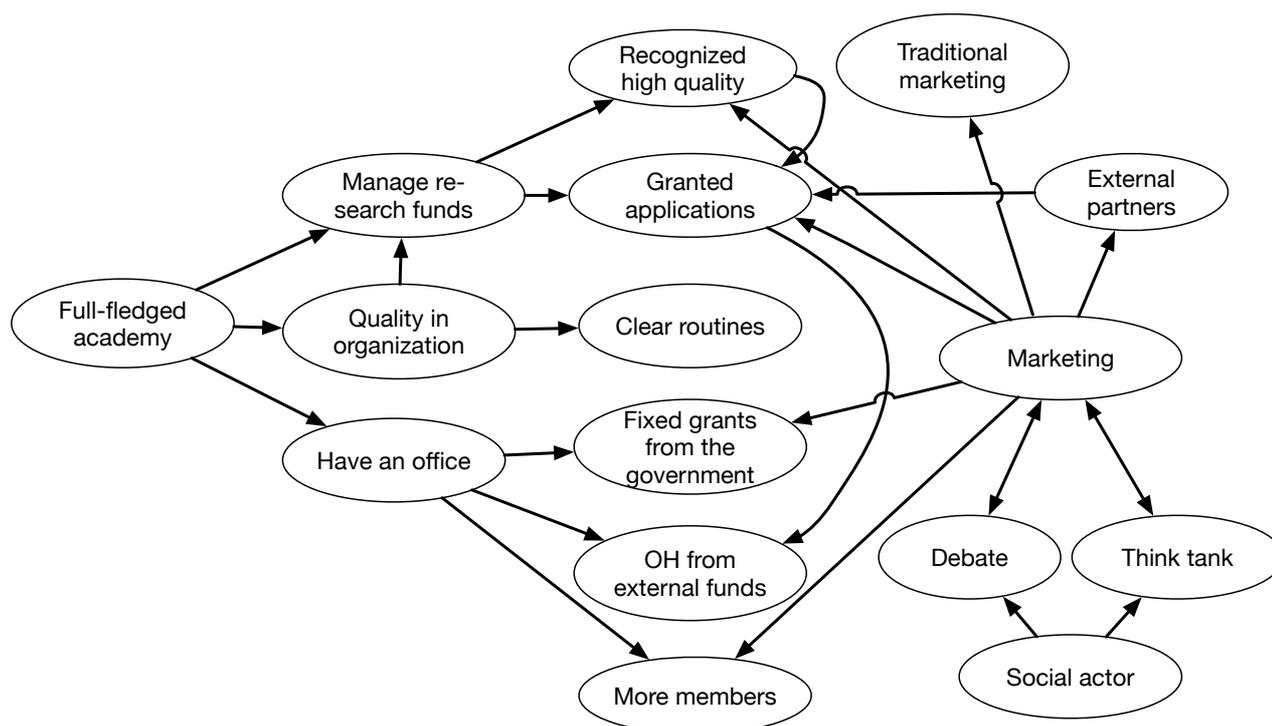
## New Vice-Chancellor's plans

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*Per Flensburg*

I have previously in my application for the position as Vice-Chancellor, in the Newsletter from June 2020 and in a column in the Strömstads tidning 20 June, explained my visions. Here I will present a somewhat more solid plan.

I have made a plan described in the picture on the page. It should be interpreted as follows: We want to achieve a full-fledged academy, where members can conduct research, participate in the public debate and write articles and books. To achieve this, we need an office, we need to be able to manage external research funds and we need to have a clear and efficient organization of high quality. We can get an office through fixed grants from the government, that has been the main strategy so far, but is now one of several options. Transfers from external research funds also contribute to the office. A third option/possibility is that the number of members becomes so large that the membership fees can finance parts of the office. We get more members through marketing; fixed grants from the government also require marketing and lobbying. In order to be able to manage research funds, we must have quality in the organization and, of course, receive external research funds. We get these by having a recognized high quality in our work and that the external actors know us well. This requires marketing. We see that marketing is a central activity, the name Strömstad Academy must be well known in both academic and political circles. To that end, we have appointed a Marketing Group consisting of the undersigned, Åsa Morberg, Marylou Wadenberg and Carl Olivestam.



Marketing can be done the traditional way, e.g. through advertising, brochures, targeted advertising via radio or television, but it is expensive. I think a better way is to be out there and be visible often and clearly in the public debate, not being afraid to make radical but fact-based statements. It is not enough to have one column a month in Strömstads Tidning, it is not enough for Rune Wigblad to write about maglev trains so the computer glows, we must all, according to each person's ability, contribute to making Strömstad Academy recognized and well known. The marketing group has therefore produced a short publication in the form of questions and answers (Q&A:s) about Strömstad Academy. The idea is that members should be able to use this text to provide short, concise and easy-to-understand answers to questions from the public. And even get answers to your own questions, there are probably members who are not aware of all the Academy's possibilities.

The Marketing Group has assumed an idea from the Future Group's work, namely the think tank. This is a forum where we publish debate articles, interviews, run investigations, both simple and advanced, both on

our own initiative and on assignment. Our profile is interdisciplinary and we also have a name, namely "Cross-thinking". The idea is that we will eventually become so in demand that we can partly bill for our investigations. Webinars and teaching materials can also be published here. The Marketing Group will further investigate what is required and is happy to receive ideas.

When you read this, 2021 is on the doorstep, maybe it has already occurred and I am "Vice-Chancellor" instead of "Vice-Chancellor Designatus". It is a big responsibility but we are a fantastic number of talented members so I have no doubt that 2021 will be a better new year!

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## Q4 report from the Executive Committee/AU

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### Summary of activities in the Strömstad Academy Executive Committee/AU during fourth quarter (Q4) October-December 2020.

Marylou Wadenberg

**The Executive Committee/AU** consists of Lasse Broman – Vice-Chancellor, Peter Fritzell - Chairman of the Board, Anders Gustavsson – Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and Mariana Back – Deputy Chair; Invited to the meetings during Q4 have also been the incoming new Vice-Chancellor for 2021, Per Flensburg and the incoming Deputy Chair for 2021, Christina Hultman (23 July only, please see further below)<sup>1</sup>. Marie-Louise/Marylou Wadenberg serves as Secretary of the Board and of AU. AU runs phone meetings (GoToMeeting) generally once a month.

The agenda for these fourth quarter meetings has, among others, focused on the following items:

- Review of written Memo from previous meeting
- The Future Group
- The website/home page
- Local Chapters
- Writing series/anthologies; Newsletter
- Chronicles for 'Strömstads Tidning'
- Economy
- Planning for and implementation of the extraordinary Annual Meeting and the Board meeting in October (physically/IRL in the Strömstad City Hall as well as virtually via GoToMeeting).
- List of members/contact info – availability
- Motions
- Additional issues

### General Information:

AU works between Annual Meetings, the highest decision-making authority, with a mandate from the Board, and regularly executes decisions made by the Annual Meeting and the Board. Meetings, during the year 2020 mainly being digital using the platform GoToMeeting, start with a brief re-

view of previous written memos. Then items on the agenda are reviewed and discussed concerning what has happened since last meeting and how to proceed. Some decisions can only be made at a Board meeting. In those cases AU works on/prepares these issues for the next upcoming Board meeting.

Responsibility for and being in charge of the different main items on the agenda is distributed between the individuals being part of AU.

Lars Broman holds the overall responsibility for: planning of the Academic Ceremony, the Annual meeting and the Science Festival in Strömstad, economic issues, and keeping in touch with the Strömstad Municipality and the Strömstad Highschool.

Anders Gustavsson holds the overall responsibility for: lectures, writing series/anthologies and the Newsletter.

Mariana Back holds the overall responsibility for: keeping the website/home page updated, running the Google Drive place with the Academy's documents, taking care of updates and handling of the list of members/contact info (supported by Lasse Broman), recruitment of members for chronicle writing in 'Strömstads Tidning'.

Peter Fritzell has been keeping a close oversight over the regular agenda items at AU meetings (please see above), and in addition being in charge of communication with the Future Group.

The responsibility for some of the above items (such as for example the list of members) has now gradually been assumed by the incoming Vice-Chancellor (of 2021), Per Flensburg.

Working Groups (ordinary), such as review of texts written in English (Marylou and John Fletcher), Local Chapters (Gudmund Bergqvist), courses (Åsa Morberg, Carl Olive-stam), and Koster (Gudmund Bergqvist), in some cases have someone in charge (in pa-

<sup>1</sup> In addition, during Q4 the substitute Deputy Chair Bode Janzon and the treasurer KG Hammarlund also attended the AU meetings.

rentheses) that is not part of AU. These individuals then most often report to Peter Fritzell and Anders Gustavsson.

In addition, a group (The Future Group consisting of Åsa Morberg, John Fletcher and initially also Johan Vestlund) has since June 2019 been working on a 'road map' outlining a suggested strategy for the development of the Academy.

Important results during this fourth quarter (Q4) 2020:

**The Future Group:** the Executive Committee (AU) has during Q4 spent a great deal of time reading, and discussing with The Future Group issues regarding the final report from this group and the group's evaluation of the work process. AU, in their planning of the Board meeting and extraordinary Annual meeting in October (2020), prepared for parts of the Future Group report (such as the Group's suggestions for measures/decisions) being filed as motions for the Board meeting and the extraordinary Annual meeting held on 16-17 of October (physically/IRL in the Strömstad City Hall as well as virtually via GoToMeeting) to consider. AU have since had meetings and discussions also around the report by the F-group outlining their evaluation of the work process. The results from these discussions will be on the agenda for the first AU meeting in January 2021, and be prepared for considerations at the board meeting in March 2021, as well as at the board meeting and annual meeting in June 2021.

**The board meeting and extraordinary annual meeting in October 2020** was, as indicated above, dominated by discussions regarding the motions from the F-group. Additional motions discussed were for example 'Monthly online presentations/lectures' and the set-up of an 'Ethics Committee'. It should also be noted that the Board/extraordinary Annual meetings accepted the suggestion from AU to appoint Bode Janzon substitute Deputy Chair (in for Christina Hultman currently being away from Academy assignments due to illness). It should be

noted though that several members, including Peter F, have been in touch with Christina by phone and she is in rehabilitation phase.

It should also be noted here that some AU members, Lars Broman and Peter Fritzell (together with Gudmund Bergqvist), have had separate **meetings with representatives from the Strömstad municipality**, for example Kerstin Karlsson (L) and Mats Brocker (municipality Chair). The Academy now also has a basic office in the Strömstad City Hall basement, and we are looking forward to an increased collaboration with the municipality, if we are reading Mats and Kerstin accurately. But, as we know, we are currently experiencing an 'unstable situation' due to the ongoing pandemic.

**The Academy website/home page:** Per Flensburg (per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se) is in charge of keeping the website updated on a regular basis (supported by Mariana Back and Jan Ternhag). Recently Carina Blom (previously involved in the Academy economy work) has now joined the website group as a back-up for Per. As a result, Jan Ternhag will no longer be part of the group, effective January 1st 2021. The website also features a Discussion forum. This forum has been used lately for communication between AU and the Future Group regarding reports from the Group on the results obtained after working on this assignment for little more than a year. Members are welcome to post on the Discussion forum, or read posts by other members. AU sees the development of the Discussion forum as an important part of the Academy activities.

**Local chapters:** Gudmund Bergqvist is currently the convenor/coordinator of the local chapters. The local chapters are active, but the work has been hampered by the ongoing corona pandemic. Gudmund Bergqvist writes a separate summary of the Q4 2020 activities in the local chapters. Convenors during Q4 has been: Jens Allwood, Gothenburg; Bode Janzon, Strömstad; Mariana Back

and Carl Olivestam, Stockholm/Uppsala (in for Christina Hultman). Other convenors: Bodil Frisdal, Lund and John Fletcher, Falun continue to stay on.

**Anthologies:** December 31 is the deadline for contributions to the anthology 'Epidemics' (Anders Gustavsson et al. Eds). Currently 12 members are listed as contributors.

**Webinar:** Peter has emphasized the importance of members contributing lectures/presentations (videos) that can be posted on the Academy website. This should be a recipe for success, not least considering the ongoing corona pandemic making it hard for individuals to meet physically/IRL. It is important though that the Editorial Board takes responsibility for this activity and that all contributions posted on the website are previously reviewed and approved by the Editorial Board.

**Brainstorming-meetings to identify/create plausible interdisciplinary projects** within the Academy: Chairman Peter Fritzell recently started an initiative to identify plausible interdisciplinary projects within the Academy and between Academy members. A first meeting with AU and trustees was held on July 29 and an additional meeting followed on October 1st.

II. Project focused on psychiatry and alcohol/drug-dependence – goal #3 (subtargets) in Agenda 2030. (Christina Hultman), Marylou Wadenberg, Ulf Berg, Gudmund Bergqvist, Anders Gustavsson and Lennart Wetterberg. Participants in this project have since met once (Dec 15) and the work has been started - MLW convenor.

III: Project on Interdisciplinary Research – Ethics issues; Carl Olivestam (and Christina Hultman).

Work in this project has also been started - CO convenor.

In summary: The most important issues for AU this fourth quarter of 2020 have been:

i) discussions and reflections on info/report/evaluation from the Future Group;

ii) planning and implementation of the extraordinary Annual meeting and the fall Board meeting in October this year;

iii) Brainstorming/webinar on interdisciplinary projects;

iiii) Webinars for posting on the Academy website

### **Additional issues**

The Annual meeting 2021 in Strömstad: AU is currently discussing the date and time for the upcoming Annual meeting that, according to the Academy by-laws, should be held in June. We have consulted with Academy virologist members, and in order to await completion of planned mass vaccination (against corona) for a sufficiently safe meeting, we may have to try to postpone the meeting to August/September. A decision on this will likely be made by the Board during Q1 2021.

Members are active providing contributions/chronicles for 'Strömstads Tidning'; presentations posted in social media (YouTube) are also in the works (please see also above, Webinar).

Bode Janzon has recently, due to health issues, asked to be relieved from the assignment as substitute Deputy Chair. He will remain convenor of the lokal chapter Strömstad though. Mariana Back has accepted to remain on the assignment as Deputy Chair during Q1 2021, possibly with an extension up to the time of the Annual meeting. We thank Bode for excellent and valuable work in the AU.

AU has in Q4 2020 had meetings via GoToMeeting:

Oct; 6, 9, 13, 27

Nov; 5

Dec; 3, 8, 10 with the Future Group, 14

Marylou has been keeping written memos during the AU meetings. These have been revised by Peter Fritzell and then e-mailed out to the 4 representatives of the AU, to the incoming Vice-Chancellor 2021 Per Flens-

burg, and to the substitute Deputy Chair Bode Janzon and the Treasurer KG Hammarlund.

All registered meetings have been on a virtual basis (via GoToMeeting).

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## Report from the editorial committee

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### ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING THE PUBLICATIONS SERIES OF STRÖMSTAD ACADEMY

*Gudmund Bergqvist*

The year 2020 has been a year with many publications in the Academy's series.

This shows that the association has been active despite the fact that, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, both the usual summer festival in Strömstad and the fall Saturday in Falun have been cancelled.

The Editorial Committee has had one physical meeting and several online discussions including one more formal.

In the academic series (peer-reviewed), seven articles have been published, of which two are anthologies. Those have also been published as books. In the free series, i.e. debate and documentation series, 5 contributions are published of which 1 is an anthology. In the video series, started in 2019, 19 videos have been posted, of which seven are original, the rest are links to lectures by our members on YouTube. This year, a pre-publication series was also started, which has the same principles for publications as other major prepublication journals. In this series now three contributions are published. These articles have a number of different authors from different universities. Hopefully, this series will be able to attract articles from different universities in the future. The Academy should spread the news.

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## Report from the local chapters

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### The local chapters 4th quarter 2020

*Gudmund Bergqvist*

Convenors

Uppsala/Stockholm      Carl Olivestam,  
Mariana Back

Falun      John Fletcher  
Malmö-Lund      Bodil Frisdal  
Strömstad      Bode Janzon  
Gothenburg      Jens Allwood,  
Elisabeth Ahlsén,  
Gudmund Bergqvist

The period has been characterized by the corona pandemic, which has led to that most activities have been cancelled.

Activities as follows has been

**in Falun 0**

**in Lund 0**

**in Stockholm 1** online from Karolinska Institutet

**in Strömstad 0**

**In Gothenburg,** however, online lectures have been held in collaboration with Rotary Poseidon

**September 28** Stephan Volmer Asta Zeneca about Corona vaccine

**October 12** Rune Wigblad on technology evaluation (can be seen on SAV 18)

**November 9** about the drug situation in Sweden with RNS Chairman Jessica Wikberg

**December 7** Annica Dahlström gave a lecture on gender differences observed in the brain.

The department has also collaborated with the Immigrant Institute which has given two lectures.

**October 7** Randi Myhre & Nour Al Mouselly "Swedish at work"

**November 4** Cenab Turunc "Religion dialogue in Gothenburg"

All lectures were held via Zoom and there was an opportunity for other members of the Academy to follow them.

Local chapter convenors have had two telephone meetings in the period

In 2021, continued zoom lectures are planned from both Poseidon and the Immigrant Institute. We remind you again that these lectures can be seen by members in other parts of the country if they apply for the actual link.

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## Here we are

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### **Our welfare system was established based on the unrestricted/utopian view of human nature.**

Our politicians – and quite a few others – built our welfare system based upon the following (but not always expressed) postulates:

#### **1. People are products of their environment**

This allows a wise elite to educate its citizens to be responsible individuals. This educational task includes protecting people from the vagaries of life.

#### **2. Individuals will accept economic support only when necessary**

It is therefore not necessary to offer material incentives to encourage expected behavior – that would be an insult to the citizens.

Such attempts to shape individuals have been unsuccessful wherever attempted. We have:

- Underestimated the importance of genetic inheritance in shaping personalities.
- Overestimated the elite's ability to be and to remain good. Unlimited power almost always leads to misuse.
- Overestimated the human ability to construct systems 'from top down' which take into account the complex reality formed

by the ambitions and needs of millions of individuals.

- Underestimated the individual needs to see life as comprehensible, manageable and meaningful.
- Underestimated the power of economic incentives.

We have built social systems to handle the *average* needs of different groups, not the specific needs of different individuals. When this has proven unsatisfactory, the most common reaction has been to broaden the scope of 'social engineering', with further rules and regulations.

This is particularly noticeable in areas where social democratic governments have made extra efforts to protect the large population groups, the labor and housing markets. These sectors show the difficulty/impossibility of taking responsibility "on behalf of others". The prevalent effect is a growing jungle of rules and regulations, all in order to ensure that "they" are cared for – and, yet, more often than not, this doesn't work as expected. The walls surrounding the labor and housing markets lie behind the large groups of unemployed – at the same time as the lack of labor limits growth.

I am convinced that most politicians work with the best of intentions. The problem is that they are trying to replace the thinking and decisions of millions of individuals with systems which have been designed a long way away from these individuals. Another problem is caused by the "irresistible" temptation to build bureaucratic empires based on the constantly growing need to 'protect the people'.

We need to accept that:

- The economic and human considerations behind our welfare systems are out-of-date.

- Nobody but we ourselves will take care of the required changes.
- Waiting to see what happens will lead us into a financial – and democratic – crisis.

Given our new knowledge, what kind of welfare system should we build? In my opinion:

- The only way we can profit from the experience of earlier generations is to allow individuals to make their own choices.
- The individual – and thus our democracy – can function (and be financed!) only when most of us see our lives as understandable, manageable, and meaningful.
- The individual can experience that kind of life only within the framework of a growing independence and resilience.
- A future welfare system needs to focus on:
  - creating incentives to minimize the use of the system
  - allowing people to be proud of establishing and running the enterprises which finance our welfare – and our affluence.
- When developing new laws, our members of parliament need to ask themselves:
  - does this proposed law improve people's freedom and ability to manage their own lives more carefully?
  - does this proposed law create incentives for people to take that management seriously?

*In which direction do we need to move?*