



STRÖMSTAD AKADEMI

Nordiskt institut för avancerade studier

Newsletter, December 2021, international edition

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Editor's corner

Editor's corner Anders Gustavsson

Surgeon and Chairman of the Board Peter Fritzell reports on important events in Strömstad Academy.

Vice-Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg informs about current events in Strömstad Academy. He has in the AAS series published no 61 Scandinavian approaches in systems development – a historical overview <http://stromstadakademi.se/AAS/AAS-61.pdf>

Educator Åsa Morberg argues for abolishing state control of the dimensioning of teacher education. She also reviews a new book that presents stories from foreign-born women who have succeeded well in acquiring a new future in Sweden.

Economist John Fletcher reports on Science Saturday in Falun on 11 December.

Pharmacologist Marylou Wadenberg reports on the working committee's activities during the fourth quarter of 2021.

Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist reports on the editorial committee's activities in 2021.

Historian Bode Janzon reports on the local chapters during the fourth quarter of 2021.

Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist and linguists Jens Allwood and Elisabeth Ahlsén are planning discussion seminars in Mullsjö in Västergötland in the spring of 2022. They make a call and wish to receive answers with comments from as many academy members as possible.

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson

Layout: Per Flensburg

Virologist Tomas Bergström participated on 1 December in Vetenskapsradion P1 in conversations about the new coronavirus and also in Göteborgs-Posten on 1 December. "Professor: Omikron can perhaps lead to kind corona". In Göteborgs-Posten on 24 December, he was interviewed in the article "Children's RS virus and flu can hit the elderly hard".

The anthology "Pandemics - past and present for the future" has been published and presented through a press release. <http://stromstadakademi.se/Pandemierforhand.pdf>. The book can be ordered via Strömstads Bokhandel: std.bok@telia.com or Bokus.com. The price is SEK 249. <https://www.bokus.com/bok/9789189331006/pandemier/>

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 Vice-Chancellor Per Flensburg per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se

I wish new contributions to the January issue 2022 of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 27 January 2022: 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 SAV to the e-mail address: gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com

Chairman's report

Colleagues in Strömstad Academy,

We can summarize an active 2021, which in many ways has been marked by the ongoing pandemic. I refer to the already presented monthly chronicles for the past year, and would like to raise some issues that should be focused on in 2022.

Scientific publications and Anthologies. The Editorial Board publishes articles on an ongoing basis, and the question of whether we should obtain a DOI number, which can facilitate the search for our publications, is being dealt with by the Board. Please see upcoming Board protocol that is currently being adjusted.

Interdisciplinary project groups. Several of these are active, and I refer to AU's quarterly report (Q4) which is available on the Website.

The website is important for the Academy, both in terms of internal communication and as an "external face" for the Academy. Per Flensburg has put a lot of work into making the site functional in different ways. I ask all members to visit our site and "play around". Come back with reflections on both what you think works well, and on what can be improved.

The economy. The Academy's current strategy is that each project, and there are several of them, seeks funding. However, as before, there is a great need for a "central economy" where, for example, the various working groups can be compensated for work done. This includes, for example, secretarial and translation efforts, the Website Group, the Editorial Board, etc., etc. It should also be possible to reimburse travel and subsistence for different groups that need to meet in order to complete their assignments. We should therefore continue to explore whether there are funds and foundations that can support the Academy. The fact that we were appointed by the government this year as a reference body with regard to the report from the Delegation for senior labor, indicates in my opinion that it is possible to present ourselves in a

way that could give the Academy an unconditional sum annually to cover, for example, administrative costs.

The local chapters. Some of these are active, especially Gothenburg, that regularly offers Webinars on different topics. Some members participate regularly, and I want to take the opportunity to advertise these! In Falun, the local chapter has started a collaboration with, among others, "Folkuniversitetet". A first meeting in the form of a "Science Saturday" was held on 11/12 at Dalarnas Museum. A number of other organizations participated as supporters, and it can be a good success factor to seek such collaborations. The experience gained in Falun will be communicated with the other chapters.

The marketing group has an important task for describing the Academy's future possibilities, and it is also very active in this work, which will be presented in the Newsletter in the form of proposals for Strategy and Policy documents, and also Control documents. This will be discussed in the Board, and decisions will be made at the next Annual Meeting on how we can use these thoughts and proposals.

Internationally. The Academy has members in many countries, and we want to point out the opportunities this entails with regard to access to competence/knowledge and to scientific collaborations.

In conclusion. I would like to thank all members for your invaluable efforts for the Academy good. In this context, it is crucial that we remember the purpose of our business, to ensure that the scientific cutting-edge expertise available in an organization like ours continues to be made available both in Sweden and internationally. Something else is an unjustifiable waste of knowledge!

I wish all Members all the best, and we look forward to a constructive 2022

Peter

Vice Chancellor's report

Dear friends,

Now I have been Vice-Chancellor of Strömstad Academy for almost a year, and it may be time to see what happened this year. It has actually been a lot. A number of projects, at least 7, have started (<http://stromstadakademi.se/wp2/testside-1/var-forskning/>) and there is a lively webinar activity within these. Almost one a week. In January, we also plan one general webinar a month where we address an interesting theme. We have published a new anthology about pandemics, a fantastic book! The SAV series has completely exploded, 23 entries this year and 20 last year. I have also got an opportunity for one of my hidden talents, namely layout. I have dealt with anthologies, two other books and newsletters. Fun and stimulating tasks! The website has taken some time; we have now also an English version and I am now realizing one of Marylou's many proposals, namely, to make it more accessible to the general public and with a special aim of recruiting new members.

For it is now that the sadness begins. About 1/3 of the members have not paid the membership fee, which must be interpreted so that they do not consider it interesting to be part of Strömstad Academy. The Marketing Group (MG) has tried to analyze the reasons, but in many cases the members do not respond. In some cases, it has simply been forgotten. In other cases, one is dissatisfied with the Academy. Others are too old and sick to interact with academia. I will make one last attempt in January and remind them that according to the by-laws they will

be excluded if they don't pay the membership fee. But a lot of members are likely to leave the Academy.

It has otherwise been quite sluggish in the Academy. To make a correct marketing strategy, MG needed to know why the members joined Strömstad Academy and a request was sent out with a newsletter. One answer was received! I have started redesigning the website and asking for comments. No one has arrived. I have installed discussion forums so we can discuss things in a more structured way than via confusing e-mailing lists. Nothing has happened. I sent out a question to some members if they wanted to start a climate group. One answer, which was about something completely different. I have tried to get in touch with the Strömstad municipality to renew our contract. Nothing has happened! Why?

Another annoying thing is our inefficient meetings, both AU meetings and Board meetings. Spending 75% of the time going through the previous minutes is not sustainable. Despite several proposals for other arrangements, the Chairman insists on this. Clear and unambiguous decisions are almost never made and questions are dragged out.

For the past 1.5 years, I have worked almost full time with Strömstad Academy and tried to create a dynamic and stimulating Academy, but with dubious results. I have a maximum of 10 active years left and I do not want to waste them. The dynamism and development I wanted to create is not in the Academy, but in the projects and webinars. Maybe it can spread. Maybe we should continue writing books, it's fun!

However, it has not only been misery, I have met many interesting people. I thank you Åsa, for letting me be part of the anthology about research careers, I thank you Anders for letting me



be part of the *Pandemic* book, I thank you Gudmund for my publications in our publication series and I thank you Jens for all the intense philosophical discussions we had. And finally, I thank the marketing team for all the wise, exciting and interesting ideas and issues we discussed!

Right now I am working on a series of articles about substandard research that I publish in the think tank *Tvär-tänkt*. The starting point is John Ioannidi's 15 year old article: [Why most published research findings are false](#). It is one of the most cited articles in Google Scholar, over 10,000 citations.

Hanne Kjöllers book on "Crisis in the research question" is based on that article. It is precisely such myths about research that Cross-thinking should reveal. Plus other myths. If you want to help, you are welcome!

Finally, I wish you all, both the Board and Members, a Merry Christmas and a Better New Year! See the road forward on previous page!

Jens Allwood: Seminars at Marston Hill in Mullsjö

Seminars at Marston Hill in Mullsjö

Jens Allwood

The West Sweden Local Chapter of Strömstad Academy invites all interested members of the Academy to discussion seminars at Marston Hill in Mullsjö

During the spring of 2022 we plan to arrange discussion seminars at Marston Hill in Mullsjö (see marstonhill.com & marstonhill.se). The seminars aim to be in a hybrid form, so that those who can/want to can participate on site with board and lodging but with a possibility for certain participation also via internet.

The seminars are planned to take place lunch to lunch, including two luncheons, dinner, breakfast, coffee in breaks, evening get-together and accommodation one night. The price will be 1500 SEK (cost price). For a presentation, please see marstonhill.se.

The seminars can potentially be the point of departure for multi- or interdisciplinary anthologies.

But before we can decide on dates etc, we would like to discuss and decide on topics for the seminars. The following topics have, so far, been suggested:

- Threats to democracy
- Migration and integration
- Objectives and values in the UN SDG Agenda for 2030
- Life on our planet after Covid
- What changes are needed in different sectors to attain "sustainability"?
- The purpose of Strömstad Academy
- Final discussion of the Anthology on Research Methods

We now wish to ask you, if you are interested in participating, to show your interest by writing if you want to participate on site, only digitally or, depending on the circumstances, any of the two alternatives. We also want you to choose one or more of the topics on the list and/or suggest another topic that you would like to discuss. Send your reply in an email to jens@allwood.se (preferably also to eliza@gu.se and gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com)

We will then list the topics that have attracted most interest and suggest dates.

Welcome!

Jens, Elisabeth, Gudmund

Åsa Morberg: Counteract racism online among children

Government assignment to the State Media Council to develop methods that counteract racism online among children and young people

Åsa Morberg

Online racism is a major and serious problem for society as a whole. This is known to everyone. The Swedish Media Council has been commissioned by the government to identify and compile methods for combating racism, similar forms of hostility and hate crimes online among children and young people. The Swedish Media Council shall identify, compile and nationally disseminate methods or tools that have a positive effect on counteracting the exposure of children and young people to racism. It is a laudable initiative by the government. It is still unusual for an authority to be given a task of a methodological nature!

The Swedish Media Council must also consider the usefulness of the methods in children's and young people's own activities. Children's and young people's use of social media has increased in recent years and then follows an increased risk of being exposed to online threats and online hate. The Swedish Media Council shows that the number of young people who have reported threats and hatred to social media services has increased. The Swedish Media Council has also produced an international research overview of cyberbullying among children and young people (Available on the internet, since 2020).

The majority of children and young people who are exposed to cyberbullying are also exposed to bullying at school at the same time. Some groups are therefore at greater risk of being exposed to cyberbullying than others. These are young people with other ethnicities, LGBTQI people and people with disabilities. The focus of studies is usually on the victim or bully, but there are fewer studies on other roles in a bullying situation or on young people's dual roles. The cyberbully is not very much studied.

Knowledge of what action reinforces or weakens racist-motivated threats and hatred is today considered insufficient. On the other hand, it is stated that different types of interventions can counteract cyberbullying. At the same time, it appears that there is a lack of adequate knowledge and analysis of which methods are most effective in counteracting and reducing the prevalence of racism and similar forms of hostility online. Sweden's schools receive criticism when it comes to online hate and online threats.

The Swedish Schools Inspectorate has recently examined the schools' work against cyberbullying. According to the report, there are shortcomings in the preventive work and violations online often occur without the knowledge of the school staff.

That the school has a formal responsibility is clear and distinct. By law, the school is obliged to actively prevent cyberbullying, but what expectations can you really reasonably have at the school?

The parents have at least as much responsibility, and so do the network providers. It is difficult to detect violations in places where the staff is not present, and extracurricular online violations can have effects in the classrooms and vice versa, which makes it difficult to draw the line between the school and the parents' responsibilities.

It is impossible for teachers and other school staff to have control over what students do online in their spare time. On the other hand, the school must inform about the risks and develop its work on basic values.

Schools have sometimes chosen to ban mobile phones completely, period. Of course, it can benefit order and peace of mind, but cyberbullying and insecurity are problems of a more complicated nature that require long-term value-based work. Instead, the school should engage in the sometimes perhaps most difficult thing: dialogue.

Here, adults, who themselves have not grown up with the internet, have a great and important responsibility. This applies to both school staff, parents and, to a very high degree, operators. By showing interest and understanding, adults become more present in the "digital schoolyard" and can be a support there as well. Dialogue sounds very vague and abstract, but there are a number of concrete tools from both authorities and organizations and the Swedish Media Council will develop many more methods.

There are no shortcuts when it comes to cyberbullying, but neither are there any excuses not to care. But for the work to have an effect, more people must be helped. Per Flensburg, John Fletcher and Åsa Morberg wrote an article about this which is being published.

Åsa Morberg: The shortage of teachers is no longer alarming

The shortage of teachers is no longer alarming, it is being written down sharply

Åsa Morberg

Now the forecasts for the shortage of teachers are starting to sway worryingly again. Now, in 2021, Sweden is (probably) 12,000 qualified teachers short. In 2019, there was a shortage of 45,000 qualified teachers. In 2017, there was a lack of 70,000 qualified teachers. The curves of supply and demand have for about seventy years looked like an alpine landscape, with high mountains and deep valleys. There have always been quick jerks with action. Several higher education institutions, such as the University of Gävle, the University of Dalarna, the Linnaeus University, Campus Kalmar, etc., have been affected by the closure of teacher education based on incorrect forecasts.

Catastrophic shortages have changed in less than a decade to a less problematic deficit. It has affected both the school system and the teacher education at the country's higher education institutions. Last but not least, individual teachers have been affected. Many individual teachers have retrained in the belief that presented surpluses would prevent them from getting a job at the school.

Different authorities provide different images of the so-called reality, which creates confusion. It is devastating that there is no consistency in the description of the so-called reality. The state dimensioning of teacher education has failed miserably.

It cannot be an insurmountably difficult task to plan for a better balance of supply and demand. There are good statistics and we know a lot about teachers' propensity to serve. There are statistics on the number of children born. How to get a better and, above all, safer basis for decisions about dimensioning and location? I advocate that the government simply let go of all control over teacher education.

Submit to the local higher education institutions to decide on the dimensioning of teacher education. There are wise local teacher educators, local statisticians, local strategists, interested municipalities around the universities. Local decisions about dimensioning can certainly not be more wrong than it is today. The government is simply unable to control the dimensioning of teacher education.

Whose fault is this really? Who should be appointed scapegoat? School politicians are the group that usually does best in the media drive. But it's not safe now. Politicians can criticize the school themselves. Without seeing that it is the politicians themselves who provide the framework and guidelines for the activity, i.e. you shoot yourself in the foot.

It cannot be an insurmountably difficult task to plan for a better balance of supply and demand. The dimensioning is based on Statistics Sweden's population statistics. Better and, above all, safer decisions about dimensioning are needed. The government cannot handle this. There is a long history that shows this.

Abolish the government control over the dimensioning of teacher education. Leave it to the local universities to dimension their teacher education. It probably cannot get worse than it is today?

Åsa Morberg: Book review

A whole new life: portraits, in a recently published book, of twelve foreign-born women who have managed to start over in Sweden.

Åsa Morberg

The book "A whole new life: portraits of twelve women who have managed to start over in Sweden" written by the author Charlotta Kåks Röshammar and with a preface by Josefina Bylund, Labour Market and Integration, Ludvika municipality. The book was recently published by Konsai.

The book is about twelve foreign-born women: Najma, Samira, Natsenet, Jyotsna, Rosana, Zina, Tamara, Rafal, Hope, Amina, Layla and Maram, who all moved to Dalarna from different parts of the world. What these women have in common is that they have really managed to create a new and positive future for themselves in Sweden. Stories of the positive side are unique.

The book is very easy to read and provides a very enjoyable and inspiring read for everyone. The book shatters the myth that immigrant women only get jobs in care and cleaning and it shows that immigrant women can actually get an education in an area they enjoy. The book also shows that all the women in the book learned Swedish and established themselves well in the Swedish labour market. This is of course a big and tough challenge for these women and this is clearly visible in their stories.

Unemployment among women born abroad is higher than for women born in Sweden. The group of foreign-born women actually has great potential, as the personal stories show. For those who come to Sweden, it is actually important to take the first important steps themselves. But at the same time, it is also about employers who need to think outside the box and really dare to invest in foreign-born women.

The women's stories are about their experiences on the road to study and work. The stories are personal and can be read as personal portraits. The authors hope that the book will motivate other women who have fled, or moved, to Sweden. It is about twelve good role models and these can certainly inspire other women born abroad.

The stories can be read like picking chocolates out of a chocolate box. You can read them in any order you like. The stories in the book are not analyzed by the author, but the readers

have to do the analysis themselves. The reader can reflect on the patterns among foreign-born women that emerge in the personal narratives.

Images are used in the book in an excellent way to engage readers. The images speak to readers on an immediate level. We don't have to read anything, or even be able to read, to be captivated and fascinated by the book's images. Through the pictures, the reader gets closer to the characters in the stories.

Charlotta Kåks Röshammar's book, in summary, gives the reader a positive experience of the personal stories. They breathe life, vitality and faith in the future. There is no analysis of the content of the stories and the author does not give the reader her picture of the pattern of the stories. The reader is left to make his or her own analysis and form his or her own picture of the pattern that emerges in the stories. Of course, this is fine too.

Marylou Wadenberg: Reports from AU Q4 2021

Summary of activities in the Strömstad Academy Executive Committee/AU during fourth quarter (Q4) Oct-Dec 2021.

The Executive Committee/AU consists of Per Flensburg (as of Jan 1st 2021 new Vice-Chancellor), Peter Fritzell - Chairman of the Board, Anders Gustavsson – Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and Jens Allwood – Deputy Chair (as of June 21, 2021). Marie-Louise/Marylou Wadenberg serves as Secretary of the Board and of AU. The Academy treasurer KG Hammarlund also attends the AU meetings on a regular basis. AU runs phone meetings (GoToMeeting) generally once a month.

The agenda for these fourth quarter (Q4) meetings has, among others, focused on the following items:

- Review of written Memo from previous meeting
- Creating a website platform for gathering info to the public about the Academy/improving the website user friendliness/usability
- Academy by-laws – possible changes
- Preparing items/issues/matters for the fall Board meeting
- The Marketing group (M-group)
- Projects and collaborations
- Economy/membership fees
- Local chapters
- Publications
- Anthologies
- Debate
- Academy membership/why member/what is expected/how take advantage?
- 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 Q4 2021 mainly being digital using the platform GoToMeeting, start with a brief review of previous written memo. 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 matters for

the next upcoming Board meeting. Occasionally joint positions/decisions may be carried out per capsulam by means of a memo from AU addressed/sent to the Board for a decision, or via the Board itself if there was not enough time to discuss this matter at the ordinary 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 as follows:

Per Flensburg holds, together with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (and in some cases the Chair), the overall responsibility for: planning of the Academic Ceremony, the Annual meeting and the Science Festival in Strömstad; he is also responsible for the website maintenance and layout of the newsletter, and to some extent keeping in touch with the Strömstad Municipality and the Strömstad Highschool. Per also handles certain records (such as the list of members).

Anders Gustavsson holds the overall responsibility for: planning of the Academic Ceremony, the Annual meeting and the Science Festival in Strömstad (together with Per Flensburg), for lectures, and, within the framework of the Editorial Board, for writing series/anthologies, and for the Newsletter.

Deputy Chair Jens Allwood holds, together with the Chair, responsibility for Board meetings; and, together with the Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, for Annual meetings. Former Deputy Chair Mariana Back stays on running the Google Drive place with the Academy's documents, and works on the recruitment of members for chronicle writing in 'Strömstads Tidning'.

Chairman of the Board Peter Fritzell, AU Chair and convenor, holds responsibility for Board meetings; and together with the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Chair, also for Annual meetings. He also keeps a close oversight over the regular agenda items at AU meetings (please see above).

Working Groups (ordinary), such as review of texts written in English (Marylou and John Fletcher), Local Chapters (as of Q1, Bode Janzon), courses (Åsa Morberg, Carl Olivestam), and Koster (Gudmund Bergqvist), in some cases have someone in charge (in parentheses) that is not part of AU. These individuals then most often report to Peter Fritzell and Anders Gustavsson.

The local chapters, Gothenburg being the most active, send invitations to webinars on various topics. Video records are posted on the Academy website (<http://stromstadakademi.se/wp2/>) and when appropriate also published in the video series (SAV) and on the Academy youtube-channel.

Important results during this fourth quarter (Q4) 2021:

The Marketing Group (M-group): Per (the group convenor) has created policy and strategy documents as well as a marketing plan (regulatory documents). The wording in these documents has been discussed in the AU meetings (in particular regarding the marketing plan). Per will write about this in the December Newsletter and will also e-mail out the docs to members for feedback. Per and KGH are also preparing a memo for the Board to review in the beginning of 2022 on how to best handle reimbursement of work related expenses (travel/accomodation etc) for M-group members.

The Academy website/home page: Per Flensburg (per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se) is responsible for managing the website. He has posted a prototype testpage for a website platform providing info to the public about the Academy. He would like for AU members and other Ac-

Academy members to visit the website, review the testpage and give feedback on what is good as is and what can be improved.

Economy/membership fees: KGH has presented the status of the book keeping records (as of Oct 31, 2021). There has been a discussion at the AU meetings on how to handle the problem with members not paying their membership dues. As a result, the Academy Chair has e-mailed out handling alternatives for the Board to vote on per capsulam. In this context, and depending on the outcome of the per capsulam voting, possible changes of the wording in the Academy by-laws has also been discussed. This will be up for discussion at the next Board meeting 2022.

Academy membership/why member/what is expected/how take advantage?: In the context of the membership dues discussion, there has been an effort in the AU to identify a number of different reasons why members agree to join the Academy, and how that affects the way they look at what it means to be a member. This matter will be further assessed in the spring of 2022.

DOI (digital object identifier): There has also been a discussion about whether to join the DOI service so that Academy member publications can be more easily found by the general public. There is an annual fee. Also this matter has been e-mailed out to Board members for per capsulam voting. At the time of writing most Board members voting so far are positive to this.

Local chapters: As of Q1 2021, Bode Janzon is the lead convenor/coordinator of all local chapters. Bode Janzon writes a separate summary of the Q4 2021 activities in the local chapters. Currently the Gothenburg and Falun local chapters are those most active. Local chapter Falun has recently initiated a collaboration with the Swedish Folkuniversitetet. Their first joint event ('Science Saturday' at the Dalarna Museum in Falun) took place on Dec 11 and was based on the UN Agenda 2030. Academy presenting members were: Tomas Bergström (Health&Health Care), Lasse Broman (Populations), Maria Spante (Education), Rune Wigblad (Technological development) and Göran Bryntse (Nuclear power). Info will be posted on the Academy website, the Academy FB-page/group and in the Newsletter.

Anthologies: The anthology 'Pandemics/Pandemier' (Anders Gustavsson et al. Eds) is now available in print. An anthology on scientific methods in different science fields is in the works – headed by Jens Allwood. A project on interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research may also result in an anthology (Jens A).

Brainstorming-meetings to identify/create plausible interdisciplinary projects within the Academy: Chairman Peter Fritzell previously started an initiative for meetings to discuss and form interdisciplinary groups with Academy members that could start various projects within this concept. Currently active groups are the following:

- (I) Issues focused on climate/environment/solar cells. In planning stage. Participants Angelika Basch, Lars Broman and Mariana Back.
- (II) Project focused on psychiatry and alcohol/drug-dependence – goal #3 (subtargets) in Agenda 2030. Marylou Wadenberg, Ulf Berg, Elaine Bearer, Gudmund Bergqvist, Anders Gustavsson and Lennart Wetterberg. Marylou presented the project in a seminar at the Science Festival. Unfortunately some doubts have been expressed as to the realistic possibility of holding the project together, and the project has in the fall been in a phase looking for alternative solutions to take it forward. However, at a meeting in December, the participants have identified and agreed on a working strategy to take the project forward. The work will go on during 2022.

- (III) Project on Interdisciplinary Research – Ethics issues; Carl Olivestam. Work in this project is ongoing; a grant application is filed - Carl O convenor.
- (IV) Project on digitalization in schools, Strömstad – Per Flensburg and Maria Spante (new Academy member). Plans in the works.
- (V) Jens Allwood and John Fletcher et al. have started a project on migration. Several meetings have been held. The project is run in part together with the Immigrant-Institute, Gothenburg. Publications are planned.
- (VI) A project on education has been suggested (Åsa Morberg), possibly working together with the Migration project (V). A computer game to get to know Sweden has been suggested (Per F).

The Board had fall meetings on November 16 and December 13. For a number of reasons there was not sufficient time to cover all items on the agenda on Nov 16, and an additional meeting (on Dec 13) was scheduled to complete the agenda items. A summarizing record from these two meetings are currently sent to elected attestants.

In summary: In addition to regular issues, the most important issues for AU this Q4 2021 have been:

- i) to identify a number of reasons why Academy members have accepted to join the Academy, and how this affects the way they look at what it means to be a member.
- ii) to discuss how to best handle the problem with members not paying their membership dues.
- iii) to follow up on the status of interdisciplinary and other projects.
- iv) to discuss the mandate of the M-group and a time-line for the activities in the Group.
- v) to prepare matters around above mentioned issues for the fall Board meetings (Nov 16 & Dec 13), which has also been accomplished (please see item above).

Additional issues

1. Members are active providing contributions/chronicles for 'Strömstads Tidning'; presentations posted on social media (Youtube) are also ongoing.
2. Members, for example Rune Wigblad, are active participating in media debates.

AU has in Q4 2021 had meetings via GoToMeeting: Nov; 4, 23

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, and to the Treasurer KG Hammarlund.

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

Bode Janzon: Report from local chapters

Report from local chapters of Strömstad Academy in the fourth quarter 2021.

Bode Janzon

During quarter four 2021 a number of online seminars regarding other topics, the following were delivered: childrens cancer, sepsis and covid 19, Finland's after war history, migration, crosscultural work in Ghana, neurodidactics. Often the seminars were arranged in cooperation with other organisations. So a Scientific Saturday was arranged in Falun together with the county museum and an adult education organisation.

The convenors of the local chapters held two online meetings in quarter four

Editorial Board report 2021

Editorial Board 2021

Gudmund Bergqvist

Members: Elisabeth Ahlsén, Jens Allwood, Gudmund Bergqvist (convenor), Per Flensburg, Anders Gustavsson, Bode Janzon, Carl Olivestam Rune Wigblad and Peter Währborg-

During the year, the committee held 5 meetings via zoom. 3 of them have been joint meetings with the marketing group (convenor Per Flensburg). At the committee's meetings, received publications have been discussed as well as general principles, but also how Strömstad Academy's publications should be registered in DiVA, DOI etc.

Upcoming anthologies and how to publish them. Prior to meetings with the marketing group, there has been discussions about how to increase sales of, in particular, the books published by the Academy's publisher, contacts with "Book info", "Bokus," etc. as well as whether you should already have made contacts earlier in the publishing process.

- During the year 3 books were published, of which 1 anthology.
- In AAS, 6 articles have been published, one of which was the anthology Pandemics
- In the Free Series, 5 contributions have been published
- In SAV (videoserries) have been published 23 contributions
- In the pre-publication series there was no contribution, but it has been an invitation in various media to publish in this series.

In addition to this work, several members of the Editorial Board have had a great influence on the web lectures made in the name of the Academy in cooperation with other organizations. A summary of given lectures, up until June 21, can be found in FFS 18, and after the summer 8 separate + lectures at the science conference.

An additional 11 web lectures have been produced for smaller groups.

John Fletcher: Science Saturday 2021

Science Saturday 2021

On December 11 the Falun section, working together with 'Folkuniversitetet i Falun', gave their traditional 'science Saturday' at 'Dalarnas Museum'. The theme was developed around the UN Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 1 – No Poverty, Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-being, Goal 4 – Quality Education, Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy, and Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. (despite Covid warnings, some 40 participants attended and liked the presentations so much that they said that we ought to do a repeat meeting in the spring of 2022, covering other Goals.)

Five speakers addressed the subject Goals. The following summaries might be used as a starting point for anybody wishing to learn more, but no more than that.

Lars Broman, Professor of Physics, spoke about Goal 1 – No Poverty, focussing on the rôle of the global population development when fighting poverty. He stressed that poverty is a multi-dimensional concept covering more than economics. It also covers lack of freedom, influence, health, education and security. Today, 1,3 billion people live in this multi-dimensional poverty, half of them are less than 18 years old. Lack of food, medical care and clean water kill

thousands every single day. There is progress, however. Since 1990, extreme poverty has been cut in half!

He spoke about the English clergyman Thomas Robert Malthus, who in the late 18th century described a humanity which “outgrew” society’s ability to produce sufficient amounts of food. This, according to Malthus, would cause starvation and war, leading to a new, temporary ‘balance’ between the population and the production of food – leading to a new disaster.

In spite of the rapid population growth, the world has escaped the global disasters predicted by Malthus, but we are most definitely not protected against the consequences of a continued growth of the global population. Sweden consumes resources at the rate of four times the available resources pro capita. What will happen when the entire global population achieves our standard of living? We are already feeling the impact of climate change and a growing lack of food.

Lars used the situation in Afghanistan to make his point. The rapid population growth (a tripling within 30 years!) is making the fight against poverty extremely difficult.

Tomas Bergström, Professor of Clinical Micro Biology, spoke on the subject of Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-being, focussing on Covid 19. He noted that the exceptionally rapid development of vaccines was based on basic research carried out 20 years earlier at the time not meeting much interest among other scientists. This knowledge was a vital key to the development of Covid 19 vaccines, saving years of development work. The extremely intense media coverage has been centered around less important – but more attention grabbing – aspects. The various virus variants, alfa, beta, delta, omicron, ... have received a lot of attention in media in spite of the fact that these changes are natural and unavoidable, and of limited interest to the professionals.

The various types of virus tend to become less dangerous over time, even though becoming more contagious. We don’t know whether the omicron version represents a first reduction in mortality, but we do believe that we see such a reduction.

Tomas stressed the risk of allowing the development of islands of unvaccinated people, both nationally and internationally. Low incomes and low levels of education play a key rôle, which underlines the fact that the welfare level, rather than new virus mutations, may be determining our ability to fight the current and future virus pandemics.

Maria Spante, Associate Professor in Informatics, spoke of Goal 4 – Quality Education. She started by stressing the importance of offering girls the same education as boys everywhere. She pointed to the Pakistani girl Malala who was shot (but survived) because she attended school and spoke of the importance of education. She has become a symbol for the freedom movement which is growing out of female education.

Maria then showed an example of a different type of situation regarding education, speaking about a study of the school results for boys and girls in grade 9 in a Swedish county. The study showed a very clear pattern: on average, boys had lower grades than girls – without any apparent cause. A large number of possible causes have been investigated, such as the gender distribution among the adults the children meet from preschool and on, but without finding valid results. This raises the broader question: “Is it really meaningful for politicians to attempt to micromanage the work done by educators?” There is a very real risk that educators are prevented from using their highly specialized knowledge and experience.

Göran Bryntse, Assistant Professor of Energy Efficient Technologies, talked about Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy and raised the much-discussed subject of final disposal of nu-

clear fuel. According to current plans the fuel is to be encapsulated, first in a special form of cast iron ('ductile iron'), and then in copper, then to be placed 500 meters below the surface, each capsule being enclosed in bentonite clay.

- Göran raised a number of arguments against these plans:
- Cast iron and copper have both been shown to corrode much faster than previously believed.
- The bentonite clay hastens the corrosion because it contains foreign minerals.
- The depth of the deposit, 500 meters, allows the groundwater to rise to the surface, which might allow the spreading of radio-active water.

Göran argued for the use of enclosures of palladium and titanium, which is far more resilient to corrosion. He also proposed that the nuclear fuel be buried at a depth of 3.000 meter to prevent the groundwater from reaching the surface.

Rune Wigblad, Professor of Management & Operations Management, spoke about Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. He said that industrial development in Sweden have benefitted from having stable conditions. Those conditions are now being changed in a number of ways. The move from fossil to green energy (primarily sun and wind power) will mean that a considerable portion of future energy production will be subject to fluctuations beyond our control. This means that we will need to spend a lot of resources to develop means of storing energy. We currently have:

- Water, which can be stored in dams.
- Batteries, which still require a lot of development work.
- Hydrogen gas, which can be stored (note the risk of explosions!). The production uses a lot of energy, however, and thus is expensive.

Rune noted that technical development in Sweden tends to be re-active, rather than pro-active. We react to what happens elsewhere, rather than developing new technologies 'on our own'. This is (partially) a matter of helping our politicians to develop a sense of technical developments at large. Sweden needs to develop ways to keep abreast of global technical developments.