



STRÖMSTAD AKADEMI

Nordiskt institut för avancerade studier

Newsletter, April 2022, international edition

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Editor's corner

E d i t o r ' s c o r n e r: 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. Based on the war in Ukraine, he makes a comparison between Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump. A preliminary program for the science festival on 20-23 June in Strömstad is presented.

Educator Åsa Morberg presents several future ideas for Strömstad Academy. She also suggests a conference on how to become a good reviewer.

Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist discusses future societal challenges regarding democracy, the rule of law, human rights, total defense and sustainable energy policy. He also reviews Martin Kragh's book *The Fallen Empire*, 2022, which deals with Russia and the Soviet Union.

Psychiatrist Mikael Tiger writes about ketamine as a medicine for depression. He will give a webinar on this on 9 May.

Business economist Rune Wigblad argues in *Dagensarena* on 19 April 2022 for a government investigation into vertical-axis wind turbines. <https://www.dagensarena.se/essa/kan-vindkraften-bli-mer-hallbar/>. In *NyTeknik* on 25 April 2022, he argues for the need for a thorough and impartial investigation of maglev trains. <https://>

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson
Layout: Per Flensburg

www.nyteknik.se/opinion/sverige-behover-en-grundlig-och-opartisk-utredning-av-magnettag-7032084. He further develops this theme in a column in Strömstads Tidning on 30 April.

Ethnologist Anders Gustavsson and **historian Bode Janzon** presented Strömstad Academy's publications at a book fair at the community center Fregatten in Stenungsund on 23 April 2022.

Ethnologist Anders Gustavsson has published a book in Swedish, with Strömstad Academy as publisher, about Alcohol Abuse. Stories during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The book is also available digitally. <http://stromstadakademi.se/AAS/AAS-62.pdf>.

Linguist Jens Allwood informs about a forthcoming discussion seminar on migration and integration at Marston Hill in Mullsjö on 7-8 May 2022. NB The time is changed.

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 May issue 2022 of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 27 May 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

In the past month, in parallel with the ongoing work with various projects, anthologies, AAS-publications, local departments, debates, etc., much focus has been on contemplating the composition of the Board after the turn of the year. Some members will not run for re-election, this includes me after my now five years as chairman. Our Nominating Committee, led by Ulf Berg, has an interesting and important task ahead. There is certainly no shortage of competent members to contact!

Working on the Board of Strömstad Academy, together with many of these competent colleagues, has been one of the most interesting and instructive things I have undertaken.

Strömstad Academy contains, as we all know, an enormous bank of knowledge and competence that it is important that we continue to take advantage of in an optimal way, both in terms of internal and external perspectives.

As I wrote in my March article, a crucial task is that, based on our resources, we offer all relevant target groups our services, in order to continue to utilize and make good use of the Academy's competencies both locally, nationally and internationally.

It now feels crucial that we focus on engaging members to the Board who are interested in working actively using the products that Strömstad Academy has created over the last 14 years. And that we identify target groups that can be served by these products, and there are many! "The sky is the limit".

At the same time, we must in a relevant way ensure that we are able to deliver what we promise. Projects are always associated with relevant impact analyses, that is my absolute conviction!

Meanwhile, the war in Ukraine continues, and the Academy wants to do what we can to help people there. For example, just over a month ago, Lars Broman contacted our member Nataliya Kovalenko, who works as an assistant professor of Science Communication in Kyiv, and described this.

Here in Sweden, the Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor continue to work on the programme for the Science Festival in Strömstad in June, the week before midsummer, and all credit go to them for their efforts! It will be so much fun to meet in Strömstad in less than two months!

I would also of course like to thank all the members and all the working groups for your important efforts!

All the best, Peter Fritzell

Vice-Chancellor's report

In April, a lot happened in Strömstad Academy. My announced decision to resign as Vice-Chancellor set off a storm of pressure; the downfall of the Academy was predicted, and what not, if I resigned. Of course, that made an impression, but I did not give up. I chose to invest in Tvärtänkt instead and the job of creating it in collaboration with good friends was extremely stimulating! There are currently 24 debate articles and a slightly larger investigation into gang crime. My article on the comparison between Trump and Putin in this newsletter, originally comes from Cross-Thinking. It feels satisfying and we try to find something in between a popular science article and a journal article. We are probably not there yet, but at least on the way.

But then came disturbing news. The treasurer had previously announced that he was not available, now the chairman announces that he is also resigning. Urban and Bodil also leave. Everyone has their fully legitimate reasons, the work on the Board and AU has not gone smoothly, I have certainly contributed to that, but now suddenly important positions in the Academy's management are vacant and I can imagine that the Nominating Committee faces a huge job. At the same time, a lot of things happened in the Academy, Bode started a lecture series in Strömstad, the Editorial Committee had creative and grandiose plans and it was a real "go" at the last meeting. Jens has interesting plans regarding Marston Hill, and so I almost did regret that I dropped out. Then I came to think of the Christmas table that Växjö University arranged in 1996, when I had just started working there. My strategy at the Christmas table is to first look at what is available, see what I like and take my picks. I love rice porridge so it is important to make room for it. Everything was under control, but when I get to the rice porridge, there is a cheesecake next to it! It was not there before. How do you choose between cheesecake and rice porridge? Both of course and then you get a stomach ache! How do you choose between Strömstad Academy and Tvärtänkt? Of course: both and you get overloaded! Then it is important to delegate and that everyone knows what to do.

Imagine if it could be like that! What if we get rid of all these dissertations about ingenuity that in practice mean nothing! Imagine if we could devote ourselves to what we want to do: write, do research and think instead of discussing how we should organize ourselves. I know that I bear a great debt in this, that I tried to involve you all in administrative investigations - in

most cases boring from your perspective. But I now make the following declaration: I stand as Vice- Chancellor for another period and I promise not to start any administrative investigations!

The Academy I see in front of me is a collection of committed, knowledgeable and experienced people who in different forms, in independent groups and in different ways create high-quality research. A researcher wants to write, publish, be involved in new and exciting discoveries and wants to spread the results of his research. Strömstad Academy should be able to support all this, mainly through various forms of publications. Our AAS series probably has no big impact, but we are working to improve it and make it better known. Instead of focusing on administrative obstacles, we create good products and ensure that they are spread. If you stand up for this vision, I will stand up as Vice-Chancellor for another term!

Per Flensburg

Per Flensburg: Putin and Trump - a comparison

Putin and Trump – a comparison

Per Flensburg, professor in informatics

For just over two months, Russia has been trying to invade Ukraine. From the beginning, there was no doubt that they would succeed. But the Ukrainian army resisted unexpectedly hard and the Russian was not as strong as one might think. It seems that the decision to invade was made by Putin himself for unknown reasons. His speech before the occupation began is described as incoherent, untrue and unrealistic. His mental health was questioned. The same thing happened with Trump. His reality differed from ordinary reality and was described as "alternative facts". It became even clearer when he claimed that he had won the election and that the Democrats had cheated at the election to an unprecedented extent. Although the courts showed that there was no such cheating, Trump claimed that was the case and incited the mob to attack the Capitoleum. Putin's rhetoric before the attack on Ukraine is very similar to Trump's rhetoric after the election loss.

How can these people get such a distorted view of reality? In management theory, there is something called gateways. It is based on power relations. If you want to make a career, you have to do things that please the superiors. Consequently, one would like to report positive things upwards and try to hide the negative ones. In the hierarchy, a filter is then formed that filters information about the outside world. There are a number of examples of this in the business world. One that I myself encountered is Addo, which manufactured mechanical calculators. I was a night watchman there in the summer of 1971 and came into some contact with the workers. They claimed that their mechanical calculators were much more durable than the electronic calculators. That the price was at least 10 times higher, they seemed to be unaware of. With this attitude, it is clear that the information to the CEO was systematically filtered so that the future of the mechanical machines appeared to be more positive than it was. One can imagine a certain amount of wishful thinking as well.

If we now look at both Putin and Trump, they are both charismatic leaders. They also have hardships and are happy to fire those who oppose them. Consequently, they will both be surrounded by yes-sayers who in every way try to please the Leader. This, of course, reinforces the Leader's perception and will lead him (can be a woman too!) to believe that reality is as he imagined. We then get a positive reinforcing loop where the isolated leader's distorted worldview is increasingly amplified until it leads to conflict with the real reality. As a result, Trump was convinced of the Democrats' electoral fraud. But the strange thing is that a number

of millions of Americans thought the same. In parentheses, the same mechanism is applied by social media: The information you receive is based on your previous searches and visits / likes. Therefore, you mainly get information that confirms your perceptions.

This may explain why Putin's views came to the fore. Due to the pandemic, Putin was very isolated and only hung out with his closest associates. As a leader, he is extremely dominant and consequently he only gets to know what is in line with his opinion. But how does this lead him to want to occupy Ukraine?

Putin has a past within the KGB and is thus a product of the Soviet Union. He is also one of the richest people in the world, perhaps even the richest. But it is his front men that manage them. He has proved to be very interested in expanding his fortune. He is said to be a major shareholder in Gazprom, the state-owned oil company. Not much is known about this, however. Ukraine is a fertile agricultural country with large mineral deposits that Putin sees can expand his fortune. This is a reason to attack Ukraine. Another reason is the dream of Great-Russia. Putin was present when the Soviet Union existed and it is alleged that he wants to recreate this. That is another reason why he wants to incorporate Ukraine with Russia. His "counselor" encourages him in this.

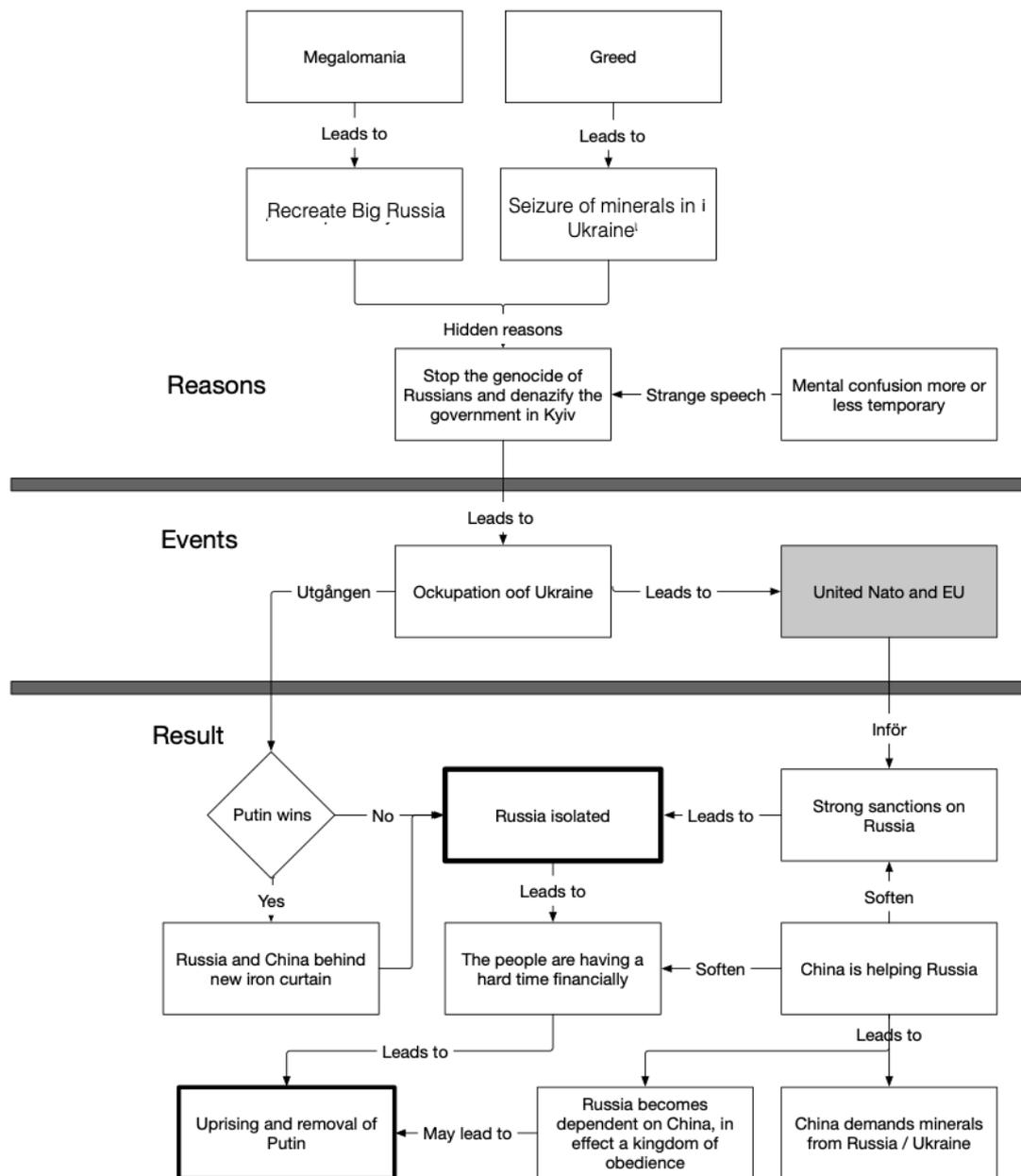
Now comes an interesting observation. How will the outside world react? So far, the EU has been divided in its view of Russia, within NATO there were also frictions and Putin imagined that his attack on Ukraine, just like the occupation of the Crimean peninsula, would lead to divisions within both NATO and the EU. This did not happen, on the contrary, it turned out that both the EU and NATO became much more united than expected. It also turned out that Ukraine offered significantly more resistance than Putin anticipated. So what happens now?

Putin believes that the operation went exactly as planned, follows the schedule and that it has many heroes. Does he believe that or is it a misunderstanding he has received from his informants? One can compare with Hitler who almost to the bitter end believed in a German victory. But he was almost completely drugged, and as far as we know, Putin is not. But he is surrounded by yes-sayers who do everything to please him. His information about the state of the world is filtered through these people and it thus confirms his preconceived notions. How he has been able to imagine that Ukraine's elected government is Nazi and that the people would welcome the Russians is, however, completely incomprehensible to me.

Or is Putin's behavior fully conscious, a game he is playing with the intention of ... well what? He has always liked to surprise and may do so now but no one knows how. He has said he wants to oust Zelensky, which would probably result in his and the rest of the Ukrainian government being killed. Putin then puts in a puppet, much like he did in Belarus, but he will get hell because a united population goes against him (I can never imagine Putin putting in a woman!). Putin probably did not take this into account, nor did the people of Russia disapprove of his war. With all the sanctions taken against Russia, there will be the same shortage of goods as during the communist era. The money of Putin and his front men are frozen and may even be seized to help Ukraine.

In any case, it will be a difficult time of need and hardship for both Ukraine and Russia. Many plans to oust Putin will be created, but he is strictly isolated, for alleged fear of being infected by covid-19. I think there is also a large dose of fear of being shot. In the figure below, I give a summary of my view of what has happened and what I think can happen.

The first step in the analysis is why does Putin want to occupy Ukraine? The reason he himself gives is to liberate the Russian people and stop the genocide that is going on there and so he wants to denazify the leadership of Ukraine. He said this in an hour-long and very confused



speech he gave before the occupation began. Many observers believe that he must have been confused. The reasons are so blatantly false that a normal human being does not believe them for a single second! The same thing happened when Trump claimed that the Democrats cheated in the election and that Trump actually won. But 70 million Americans still believe it, despite the fact that no court has found any evidence to prove it. Putin may have thought he could do the same. For security reasons, only his own version of events, ie the state version, was allowed to be disseminated via the mass media.

But behind this strange official reason are a number of hidden ones. The most common that is suggested is his dream of a Greater Russia, from the old Soviet era. Putin grew up at that time and was active in the KGB. Certainly there is a large portion of hunger for power behind it. Another reason that is usually stated is his greed. He is very rich, but the money is in the names of different front men. Their assets are probably also blocked. Ukraine has a lot of natural resources such as iron, manganese, titanium, mercury, sulfur, potassium carbonate, kaolin and

lime and Putin wants access to these. A pipeline for gas to China is being built and it is expected to generate large revenues for the Russian state (Gazprom) and probably also for Putin.

Putin probably expected that the occupation of Ukraine would go very fast, but the Ukrainian army is Europe's largest, second only to Russia, and it did much greater resistance than Putin had probably imagined. Another unexpected setback was that the EU and NATO agreed to send lots of weapons and supplies to Ukraine. Putin's threat of nuclear weapons further diluted the consensus. This became an unexpected consequence of the occupation and is marked with a gray shadow in the figure above. It was probably also unexpected that the Western world would impose such severe sanctions as quickly as they did. A rapid and united blockade leads to Russia being isolated from the Western economy. In the long run, it is the decisive event and it therefore has an extra thick frame. Russia receives aid from China, on which Putin and Xi Jinping have agreed in advance. However, China's enthusiasm for the occupation was moderate. Due to the long-term effect of the isolation, Russia will need more and more help from China and it may happen that Russia in practice becomes an obedient kingdom to China. Putin probably did not think so, so it could be a break.

What is strange is that Europe continues to buy Russian gas, even though the money goes directly into Putin's war treasury. Approximately one billion kronor a day is estimated to come in from Europe. Europe cannot agree on this issue, mainly because Germany is dependent on Russian gas. This is a consequence of the decommissioning of their nuclear power plants.

In practice, an iron curtain has been formed in Europe. It runs along eastern Finland, the eastern Baltics and eastern Poland. Whether it runs along Ukraine's northern or southern border depends on whether Putin succeeds in occupying Ukraine or not. Regardless of the outcome, we now have the curtain, the question then is whether Kinna supports Putin or not. It probably does not want to be within an iron curtain, but China wants to be able to trade with the whole world. Russia's isolation will lead to a shortage of raw materials, a shortage of money and long lines, perhaps even rationing. In short, Soviet times are coming back. It was the economy that became the fall of the Soviet Union and it could be the fall of Putin as well.

Preliminary program Science Festival 2022

This is a preliminary program for the Science Festival. There might be changes. If you are interested you can present your research in a short presentation, 20 min with 10 min discussion.

Day	Date	Time	Activity	Place
Må	20-juni	13:00-15:00	Discussion: The future of Strömstad Academy	Fars sal
Må	20-juni	15:00-18:00	Board and Annual Meeting	Fars sal
Ti	21-juni	9:00-9:30	Introduction, Per Flensburg	Skagerack
Ti	21-juni	9:30-10:00	Gudrun Ohlsson: The essence and love of love	Skagerack
Ti	21-juni	10:00-10:30	Coffee	Skagerack
Ti	21-juni	10:30-11:00	Anders Gustavsson: Covid19 in a border area with Strömstad as a starting point	Skagerack
Ti	21-juni	11:00-11:30	Gudmund Bergqvist: The world after Covid	Skagerack

Ti	21-juni	11:30-12:00	Carl Olivestam: Cultural meeting in a Central African context with the church as arena.	Skagerack
Ti	21-juni	12:00-13:30	Lunch	
Ti	21-juni	13:30-14:00	Marylou and Lennart: The Drug/psychiatry Project	Skagerack
Ti	21-juni	14:00-14:30		Skagerack
Ti	21-juni	14:30-15:00		Skagerack
Ti	21-juni	15:00-15:30	Coffee	Skagerack
Ti	21-juni	15:30-16:00	Bode Janzon: "Rural depopulation: who remained in the country? With examples from Orust around the turn of the century 1900."	Skagerack
Ti	21-juni	16:00-16:30	Per Staffan Boström	Skagerack
Ti	21-juni	16:30-17:00	John Fletcher	Skagerack
Ti	21-juni	19:00-21:00	Music	Kyrkan
On	22-juni	9:00-9:30	Åsa Morberg	Skagerack
On	22-juni	9:30-10:00	Jens Allwood: Interdisciplinary	Skagerack
On	22-juni	10:00-10:30	Coffee	Skagerack
On	22-juni	10:30-11:00		Skagerack
On	22-juni	11:00-11:30	Göran Bryntse: Problems with nuclear waste	Skagerack
On	22-juni	11:30-12:00	Bergqvist, Broman, Wigblad and others: Fossil-friendly Koster. It's about the sun. maglev, wind turbines etc	Skagerack
On	22-juni	12:00-13:30	Lunch	
On	22-juni	13:30-14:00	Jens Allwood: Methodology	Skagerack
On	22-juni	14:00-14:30		Skagerack
On	22-juni	14:30-15:00		Skagerack
On	22-juni	15:00-15:30	Coffee	Skagerack
On	22-juni	15:30-17:00	Installation of new members	Skagerack
On	22-juni	17:00-18:00	Mingle	Skagerack
On	22-juni	19:00 -	Dinner (optional)	T b a
To	23-juni	9:30-10.30	The future of Strömstad Academy, follow-up of discussion on Monday	Skagerack
To	23-juni	10:30-11:00	Coffee	Skagerack
To	23-juni	11:00-11:30		Skagerack
To	23-juni	11:30-12:00		Skagerack
To	23-juni	12:00-13:30	Lunch	
To	23-juni	13:30-15:30	Guided tour by Ulf Hansson at Strömstad Museum	Museet

Åsa Morberg: Future thoughts about Strömstad Academy

Future thoughts about Strömstad Academy

conceived by Åsa Morberg, associate professor in didactics

In the programme for the Science Festival, there is an opportunity, on Thursday, when we members will discuss Strömstad Academy's future and its future development. It is an excellent feature of the program for the festival. Too bad it's so late in the programme. Many are already on their way home for the midsummer celebrations. However, we need to think about and discuss future issues for Strömstad Academy continuously in all fora. The future is not something that just appears, but we create it together in Strömstad Academy. We are used to focusing on what we can control and living in the present, but now we need to take a starting point and think ahead. What will Strömstad Academy look like in ten years? It's a short perspective really.

When I was headhunted by Lars Broman to Strömstad Academy, I got a very positive impression of Strömstad Academy and that impression I still carry with me. Lars Broman's development ideas were also very attractive. I had no thoughts at all about ending my professional activities and Strömstad Academy could give me the platform I needed, an opportunity to continue doing research and be part of a solid knowledge bank of scientific and experience-based competence. In my opinion, this is the main purpose of Strömstad Academy now and in the future. Lars Broman outlined development opportunities for Strömstad Academy in the texts he published as Vice-Chancellor and it was easy to confirm his sketches. For the society, it is very important to make use of these researchers' collective resources and large contact networks around the world, and Lars Broman saw this.

I am one of those who appreciate social coexistence now and will also appreciate it in the future. However, I do not see social interaction as an end in itself, but more as a side effect of a good working community in terms of quality. I see the need for a professionally arranged recruitment campaign to get more members and more revenue. A campaign planned by professional marketers.

On our website holds a long list of activities that Strömstad Academy engages in today. These are activities that can all be found in an outlined future scenario. I see the collaboration with other colleges and universities as an important part of developing both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Strömstad Academy is to be regarded today and in the future as a large and important national and international resource bank of qualified expertise in higher education. The anthology *Researcher Careers* gives us opportunities to support younger researchers' career development in the form of mentorship and coaching. Anthologies have been produced in-house and that work should continue in our own publishing business in the future. Strömstad Academy today also produces its own publication series *Acta Akademicae Strömstadiensis*, AAS, and that publication series should be developed in the future into an international journal. It is possible to interest Taylor & Francis, for example, in investing the magazine in their company, and thereby significantly strengthen the economy in Strömstad Academy.

Strömstad Academy's science festival is a qualitatively very good interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary event. Strömstad Academy should strive to regularly organize conferences for a national and international group of participants in the future. The local branches, if strengthened administratively, can certainly also arrange national and international conferences in the futu-

re. There is a need for the development of a stylish profile collection over the next ten years. We should order the profile collection from a professional marketing company.

In my future scenario, education is also included. For me, research and education always go hand in hand. Strömstad Academy can arrange both regular training and commissioned training. Strömstad Academy can expand its lecturer forum and sell both physical and digital lectures. There is a need for a developed administration that can handle education in a correct way. Funding is also needed for the broad operations to be developed at Strömstad Academy.

In my future vision of Strömstad Academy, there are some colleagues who for a large part of their time are engaged in applying for money for the operation of the Academy. If Strömstad Academy is to be able to implement the proposals listed above, cash is required. There may be changes in these applicants. Those who have been most successful and have drawn in the most research funding may be able to volunteer?

In the future, Strömstad Academy also needs to review its organization and streamline administration. The entire board needs training in association knowledge. The problems with board work that members today may experience need to be addressed by Strömstad Academy in the near future. The work of the board needs to be greatly simplified, become more time-saving and, above all, more democratic!

What are your future thoughts!

Åsa Morberg: Proposal to organize a conference

Proposal to organize a conference on the theme "How to become a professional reviewer?" for scientific articles in international peer-reviewed and highly regarded journals.

Åsa Morberg

Here is a first proposal that Strömstad Academy organizes an international conference on the theme "How to become a better professional reviewer for scientific articles?" It is, of course, a preliminary title. If the conference can be held, the title must be reviewed and changed.

Many seniors still have their review assignments and have accumulated a lot of experience that can be shared with less experienced researchers. Of course, being a good reviewer is related to the requirements of the journal where articles are to be published, but there is still both general and specific advice for reviewers. Many pieces of advice are general. Of course, there are also special tips related to the subject.

All researchers certainly have experience with reviews that are deficient and know that they are not very valuable in increasing the quality of the article. They are also far too common. As well as a qualitatively good review is gold - increasing the scientific quality of the article. These are good professional reviews that are desirable.

The proposal is now about arranging a shorter conference from lunch to lunch. The conference is aimed at reviewers, experienced and slightly less experienced. The purpose of the conference will be that those who are not so experienced will get help and support from the more experienced in reviewing articles.

In the marketing of the anthology *Researcher Careers*, this proposal has come up and a follow-up anthology about being a professional reviewer has even been proposed. This is how I think about the content and structure of the conference. The announcement of the conference will of course also be about the opportunity to participate in an anthology about the task of being a professional reviewer.

It is a bit uncertain if we have the opportunity to arrange a conference like this? This should be a conference that costs money to attend and the number of participants should be limited. Maybe 25 persons only? Strömstad Academy rents the venue and ensures that we can arrange coffee and lunch and coffee. Dinners can be arranged by the participants themselves in Strömstad or should we possibly include the cost of a dinner? Social interaction is important during a conference like this. The accommodation is arranged by everyone on their own and paid for separately. Participation in the conference can be both members and external participants.

The structure can largely be as follows: presentation of the conference participants, review of the purpose of the conference, some highly qualified reviewers lecture on reviewing scientific articles and present a text material for the continued conference, participants are divided into groups and discuss their experiences of reviewing scientific articles, the first day is summed up and day two is presented.

The second day is about what needs for support there are and how an anthology could be set up. Today's discussions are about co-planning an anthology about being a professional reviewer. There may also be a presentation by a good editor of a magazine about how the magazine supports its reviewers. Perhaps a presentation of how an Editorial Board works to support its reviewers. The second day ends with the production of a synopsis for an anthology about being a good reviewer.

An editorial committee must then be appointed for the anthology so that the work of producing texts can start immediately after the conference. Our Vice-Chancellor Per Flensburg has emphasized the importance of trying to organize conferences. This is a suggestion. Since almost everyone has had the task of reviewing scientific articles, the topic suits many members. I have also tested my idea on those I met when marketing the anthology *Researcher Careers*.

If our own magazine could be published, for example, by an international publisher, it is possible to finance a conference like this with their support. I have good experience of such an event during my time as President in Brussels.

Gudmund Bergqvist: And so it happened!

And so it happened!

Gudmund Bergqvist

We have for a long time in the debate often, if not to the same extent as in some Anglo-American media, had a debate about identity issues, the view of LGBT, some immigrant groups and inequality often called woke and cancel issues. This has been largely managed by the so-called nagging middle class in various both old and new media. There are those skepticals who call them marginal issues.

In 2020, the world was affected by a pandemic, which entails great interest in debate, primarily in health care issues, but not the cessation of identity issues.

So suddenly on February 24, 2022, one that many have long feared: a great war in Europe breaks out. We are seeing a huge influx of refugees, this time of women and children as opposed to the one in 2015 when these were mainly young men. The EU triggers mass refugee directives. West suddenly becomes united and gives as much support as possible to Ukraine

without getting into direct war with Russia and the risk of the use of nuclear weapons starting World War 3.

We have seen a rapid radical change in the debate climate. Now we instead read words like defense, total defense. NATO, shelters, food production, energy supply, etc. Welcome to reality! and act on real issues that require real solutions. The world is not cute and benevolent. The dictators believe that the right is at the end of the spear bar and does not take into account others and are not affected by whether they happen to cause starvation and misery in other countries.

The experiences of Hitler Germany, Stalin Soviet Union and Mao China are horrifying. Their interest in collaborating on global solutions to pandemics, global warming, etc. is marginal.

We must be prepared for a long-standing struggle to defend democracy, the rule of law and human rights and to have functioning international organizations. This will cost, but we should consider the alternative.

We need to discuss in different ways these issues that for many years have been unfavorably treated in favor of marginal and exotic and emotionally exhilarating subjects

Upgrade both defense and total defense. Increase the resilience of society in different ways. These include a sustainable energy policy. This provides a good opportunity to quickly get through a green transition, increase our own food production and restore the stocks we had before. Security must be costly. At the same time, we must work with pandemic prevention, limit global warming and decreasing biodiversity and help developing countries develop! There is no shortage of real problems to discuss and find solutions to.

Gudmund Bergqvist: Rewiev, Martin Kragh. The Fallen Empire

Martin Kragh. The Fallen Empire Fri Tanke förlag 2022.

Review Gudmund Bergqvist

We live in a time when the European security order and our values as democracy, rule of law, human rights are threatened by an aggressive Russia ruled by a dictator.

How did this happen and what is the story behind these changes?

Martin Kragh researcher in Eastern European studies describes Russian history from the background in the 1800s Tsarist Russian imperialism via the Soviet Union to present-day Russia. He readily shows various historic events, and ideological theories that are present.

How has Russia viewed the world and how has the outside world assessed and misjudged Russia.?

The book contains a large amount of data and a 30-page long reference list!

Despite the large fact content, it is written in an easy-to-read and concentrated style! Which impresses.

If you want to be familiar with today's situation, read it!

If you don't know much, you need to gain knowledge. Read it!

This is probably the most significant book published this year.

Mikael Tiger: Ketamine antidepressant

Ketamine antidepressant

Mikael Tiger

Ketamine has been used as an anesthetic drug since the 1960s and it is also used as an analgesic. In addition, since the year 2000 there is accumulating evidence of a rapid antidepressive effect of ketamine. Ketamine modulates the glutamatergic system. However, ketamine also has an effect on the serotonin system. Mikael Tiger, psychiatrist and researcher at Karolinska Institutet, will present a study of the impact on a key serotonin receptor of ketamine for SSRI treatment resistant depression.

Jens Allwood: Discussion Seminar at Marston Hill

The West Sweden Regional Group of Strömstad Academy invites members to A Discussion Seminar at Marston Hill in Mullsjö about MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION, MAY 7 – 8 May, 2022 (Note changed dates).

Based on the responses we received to our questionnaire in the January and February Newsletters, we now invite all interested members to a seminar on MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION, May 7 – 8 May at Marston Hill in Mullsjö.

We will probably also have a short report on the progress of the anthology on Scientific Methods and continue the discussion of the purpose of Strömstad Academy.

The structure of the seminar will be that all participants are invited to make short contributions which we will then discuss.

(You can, however, also participate in the seminar without making an initial contribution.)

The seminars are planned lunch to lunch, including two lunches, dinner, coffee breaks, get-together in the evening and one night's stay. The price is 1500 SEK (minimal cost).

For two different presentations of Marston Hill, see marstonhill.se or marstonhill.com

The seminar could possibly be the basis for a multi- or interdisciplinary anthology.

If you are interested in participating, send your answer in an email to jens@allwood.se (preferably also to elisabeth@allwood.se and gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com).

Welcome!

Jens, Elisabeth, Gudmund

Bode Janzon: The Bohuslän Book fair

Strömstad Academy participated in the Bohuslän Book fair.

Bode Janzon

Some ninety exhibitors accepted an invitation to the first Bohuslän Book fair which took place on 23 April in the community center Fregatten in Stenungsund. Among them there were local historical societies to be found as well as a great number of writers of novels and short stories. On the exhibitors tables you could find a large variety of themes: crime, passion, feel-

good etc but also poetry and photobooks. All day long readers of all kinds swarmed through the showrooms.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Anders Gustavsson and the oversigned represented Strömstad Academy. Our table contained piles with five anthologies from Barnbarnens århundrade to Pandemier. We added a select number of our own writings closely connected to the regional theme of the fair, the province Bohuslän. Many visitors dwelled around our table and we were quite busy introducing not only Strömstad Academy but also the literature provided. At the end of the visiting hours the attendance rate lessened.

Positive: now the academy is better known for the local/regional general public. Negative: we were not very successful as booksellers. Our opinion is, after all, that participating was encouraging, a book fair like this one gives excellent opportunity to market the Academy, the literature we produce as well as all other activities. Next time we should consider adding some practical improvements such as a revolving bookshelf. And more important exposing the Academy in the seminar program!



Anders Gustavsson to the left, Bode Janzon to the right. Photo Kristina Gustavsson.

