



# STRÖMSTAD AKADEMI

*Nordiskt institut för avancerade studier*

## Newsletter, May 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** informs about current events in Strömstad Academy.

**Vice-Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg** informs about current events in Strömstad Academy. A program for the science festival on 20-23 June in Strömstad is presented.

**Educator Åsa Morberg** addresses the issue of unqualified teachers as a national problem with a view to an equivalent school. She also reviews Martin Rösshammar's book "Att intervju". She and economist John Fletcher discuss the question of how recruitment of new members to Strömstad Academy can take place.

**Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist** reports on the work of the editorial committee.

**Ethnologist Anders Gustavsson** gave a lecture on 4 May at the Science Festival in Gothenburg with the theme "The ravages of cholera in western Sweden during the 19th century".

In the video series SAV no 47 **Carl Olivestam, Ole Petter Ottersen** and **Gudmund Bergqvist** have published Pandemier, mätningar och vaccin för att skydda demokratin: <http://stromstadakademi.se/SAV/SAV-47.pdf>

In the video series SAV no 48 **Carl Olivestam** has published Your values and others - Convince or be convinced: <https://slideplayer.com/slide/8213506/>

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.

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson  
Layout: Per Flensburg

Please, send suggestions to **Vice-Chancellor Per Flensburg**: [per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se](mailto:per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se)

I wish new contributions to the June issue 2022 of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 26 June 2022: [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 Strömstadensis, AAS, and the video series SAV to the e-mail address: [gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com](mailto:gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com)

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## Chairman's report

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### Colleagues in Strömstad Academy

We face interesting challenges in the Academy. Several on the Board will, after meritorious work, leave their seats to other reputable colleagues. The Nominating Committee, led by Ulf Berg, has been working on the candidate issue during the spring, and it feels good to be able to welcome new distinguished members to the current board positions. The annual meeting has to assess these, and the names of the proposed candidates will be sent out together with the Agenda no later than 13/6. Several motions are also attached which I ask you all to reflect on.

I would like to refer to my April Chronicle and point out the importance of us thinking in terms of as little administration as possible. Without sacrificing relevance and inviolability in an academic perspective, which is fundamental to our credibility capital towards both professions, organizations, and the public. To have this as basic thinking, the least possible administrative burdens, and that the Academy does everything to ensure that members have an outlet for their own creative thinking and support this in every way possible, I think that is the basis for Strömstad Academy to function optimally. In this context, I would like to mention the group that has worked meritoriously with ethics issues and the possible establishment of an ethics committee in the Academy, that such a committee should act as an advisory and not a decision-making body. The ethics committee's proposal will also be sent out in connection with the agenda.

During the Science Festival in Strömstad, one point will be just this, how do we make the Academy flourish within the framework of the goals we have formulated (see Website). There are, as previously pointed out, many ongoing projects that we can be very proud of, and not least be curious about. An interdisciplinary Academy like ours provides perspectives on issues that may have never been thought of. That is great thing!

Consequence analyses. I would like to emphasize again the importance of making sure that the projects we initiate in the name of the Academy can also be carried out in the way we describe. Not least, it is important if we participate in projects where outside organizations are involved. Projects should always be associated with relevant consequence analyses at several different points on a timeline, and this should be described from the very beginning. We must not forget this! Never launch a project without discussing possible consequences, both internally and externally!

Before the Science Festival, which the Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor have meritoriously organized, and where there already is a very exciting preliminary program for the three days in June, this year's Annual Report and next year's Activity Plan will be sent out to all members together with the programme, no later than 22/06. The annual meeting will be held as usual in the City Hall in Strömstad, on 20/6 at 3-4.30 pm

I would like to end by thanking all members, working groups and local departments for your important work, and at the same time welcome new members to Strömstad Academy!

*All the best, Peter Fritzell*

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## Vice-Chancellor's report

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The Science Festival is fast approaching, and the program is completed. We have received SEK 20,000 in grants from the municipality, so we only need to charge SEK 300 for the conference fee. On Tuesday evening, we resume our collaboration with the church arranging a concert with the Gothenburg Chamber Choir and Gunnar Ericsson, both renewers of Swedish choir singing. Gunnar is also an honorary professor in Strömstad Academy. The program for the festival is presented elsewhere in the Newsletter.

An important point during the Science Festival is a discussion about Strömstad Academy's future. A lot has happened during the first half of the year and many strong opinions have been met and supported. And now things are happening outside the management as well, which is very gratifying. Therefore, we start already on Monday after the Annual Meeting with a discussion about the future of our Academy. It should be seen as a starting point and the discussion is intended to continue informally throughout the festival. We summarize this discussion on the last day. Hopefully we can then set out a successful course for Strömstad Academy and get more and more people involved.

If we look outwards, things are nonetheless eventful. We have a war in Ukraine, which in my opinion will lead to the fall of Putin. Read my analysis [here](#). Sweden has abandoned a 200-year freedom of alliance and applied for membership in NATO. We have an election this fall, with two parties on their way out of the parliament and an uncertain parliamentary situation. Do not say that there is no material for interesting articles and projects in Strömstad Academy!

But there are also points of concern. From the turn of the year, University West no longer has time to register our AAS articles in DiVA. For this we must find a solution. It is conceivable that the members who publish in AAS also ask to be affiliated to their old university. This way you hit two birds with one stone. Strömstad Academy receives a publication, and the member gets access to the databases in the library at the old university. But it is an individual-based solution and not sustainable for the Academy as a whole.

Another problem concerns the marketing of Strömstad Academy. The former group was probably a bit too much focused on marketing planning instead of real marketing. But how do you market several books without any real resources? How do you market an Academy without being aware of what it can offer? How do you market an Academy without being clear about its purpose? I sincerely hope that these issues can become clear after the Science Festival this year.

## Program Science Festival

Day	Date	Time	Activity	Place
Mon	20-June	13:00-14:30	Board meeting	Fars sal
Mon	20-June	14:30-15:00	Coffee	Fars sal
Mon	20-June	15:00-16:30	Annual Meeting	Fars sal
Mon	20-June	16:30-18:00	Discussion: The future of Strömstad Academy	Fars sal
Tue	21-June	9:00-9:30	Introduction, Per Flensburg	Skagerack
Tue	21-June	9:30-10:00	Gudrun Ohlsson: The essence and non-essence of love	Skagerack
Tue	21-June	10:00-10:30	Coffee	Skagerack
Tue	21-June	10:30-11:00	Anders Gustavsson: Covid19 in a border area with Strömstad as a starting point	Skagerack
Tue	21-June	11:00-11:30	Gudmund Bergqvist: The world after	Skagerack
Tue	21-June	11:30-12:00	Carl Olivestam: Cultural meeting in a Central African context with the church as arena.	Skagerack
Tue	21-June	12:00-13:30	Lunch	
Tue	21-June	13:30-14:00	Marylou Wadenberg and Lennart Wetterberg: The Drug Project	Skagerack
Tue	21-June	14:00-14:30	Ulf Berg: Right and Left in the World of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	Skagerack
Tue	21-June	14:30-15:00	Presentation from the ethics group, Peter Währborg	Skagerack
Tue	21-June	15:00-15:30	Coffee	Skagerack
Tue	21-June	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
Tue	21-June	16:00-16:30	Per Staffan Boström: Resource growth via Innovation Capital	Skagerack
Tue	21-June	16:30-17:00	John Fletcher: Do we want to tear down the walls around our Swedish ghettos?	Skagerack
Tue	21-June	19:00-21:00	Concert with Gothenburg Chamber Choir and Gunnar Eriksson	Strömstad Church
Wed	22-June	9:00-9:30	Åsa Morberg: State leadership for the school?	Skagerack
Wed	22-June	9:30-10:00	Jens Allwood: Interdisciplinary research	Skagerack
Wed	22-June	10:00-10:30	Coffee	Skagerack
Wed	22-June	10:30-11:00	Göran Bryntse: Problems with nuclear	Skagerack
Wed	22-June	11:00-11:30	Bergqvist, Broman, Wigblad and others: Fossil-friendly Koster. About the sun, maglev, wind turbines etc	Skagerack
Wed	22-June	11:30-12:00	Jens Allwood: Methodology	Skagerack
Wed	22-June	12:00-13:00	Lunch	

Day	Date	Time	Activity	Place
Wed	22-June	13:00-13:30	Peter Währborg: Complex syndromes - controversial and difficult-to-understand diseases	Skagerack
Wed	22-June	13:30-14:00	Cenab Turunc: Religious dialogue in our multi-religious society today	Skagerack
Wed	22-June	14:00-14:30	Per Flensburg: Systems theoretical analysis of the war in Ukraine	Skagerack
Wed	22-June	14:30-15:00	Coffee	Skagerack
Wed	22-June	15:00-15:45	Installation of new members	Skagerack
		15:45-16:15	Lars Broman: Long way to become an honorary professor at Strömstad Academy	
Wed	22-June	16:15-18:45	Mingle	Skagerack
Wed	22-June	19:00 -	Dinner (optional)	Laholmen
Thur	23-June	9:30-10.30	Elisabeth Ahlsén: Swedish debate on integration	Skagerack
Thur	23-June	10:30-11:00	Åsa & Torkel Wadström: Nurture your intestinal bacterial flora!	Skagerack
Thur	23-June	11:00-11:30	The future of Strömstad Academy, follow-up of discussion from Monday (with coffee)	Skagerack
Thur	23-June	11:30-12:00	Closing the festival, Per Flensburg	Skagerack

Every presentation takes max 20 min and then there will be discussion for 10 min.

## Åsa Morberg: Unauthorized teachers

### Unauthorized teachers, a national problem for an equal school

by Åsa Morberg, Associate professor of didactics

The problem of unqualified teachers must be taken seriously and a series of measures are needed. Swedish preschool and school stand and fall with the availability of competent and qualified teachers and therefore a national gathering of forces is needed around the lack of qualified teachers.

Increase the dimensioning, invest in attractive and qualitatively good recruitment programs, create good introductory programs, invest in individual competence development so that teachers have teacher qualifications, invest in a good working environment and review the salaries of teachers in smaller schools and engage senior qualified teachers who want and can go on working.

The shortage of qualified teachers can be studied in the National Agency for Education's situation assessment 2020, which speaks of a growing shortage of qualified teachers. This is a great

challenge for the entire Swedish school. Continued development work is needed both at a national and local level to recruit qualified teachers and thereby improve equivalence and increase the quality of teaching. Principals, responsible politicians and school leaders have a hard job ahead of them. You cannot just sit with your arms crossed!

A major problem is that there are actually not enough trained teachers. There will be a shortage of about 12,000 teachers by 2035. There have been large variations in how many will actually be missing, but an increased dimensioning of teacher education is a necessary measure. There are competence problems in teacher education that can cause early dropouts from teacher work and this obviously impairs the availability of qualified teachers.

The biggest shortage is vocational teachers and subject teachers with a focus on compulsory school years 7-9. The proportion of qualified teachers was 72% in full-time positions. Another 19% lacked qualifications but had a pedagogical university degree or a permanent job. In total, there are about 24,000 full-time positions. The dimensioning of teacher education must be increased. The number of places on the teacher program needs to be increased. All attempts at sufficient dimensioning have so far failed. In order for the universities and municipalities to be able to use the authorities' analyzes, it is important that there is a reasonable degree of consistency in the description of reality. That is not the case today.

Planning is needed partly for local recruitment programs and partly for qualifying competence development. All unauthorized individuals must be placed at the school desk immediately. It is an important part of managing the supply of qualified teachers. Planning for individual competence development is difficult, because teacher education has changed so frequently! The person who is to make the plan for an unqualified teacher must be well acquainted with the reforms by which teachers are trained.

Small schools in rural areas are closed, in favor of large mastodont schools in central cities. The school closures obviously have to do with the principal's view of finances. It is about saving money, without this having been linked to a broader socio-economic analysis. There are assumptions that smaller schools are not financially defensible and worse than large mammoth schools in central cities. The closures of small schools are legitimized by the interpretation of a selection of disparate research results that support the principals' intentions. Investigators for the principals are rarely postgraduate. The principals' investigations are often qualitatively problematic and only confirm the predetermined.

Small schools can achieve as good results in knowledge measurements as large schools. Small schools offer a safe environment for students and can be a particularly good working environment for teachers. The principals who have increased the proportion of qualified teachers have invested in a good working environment, but also adjusted teachers' salaries upwards. Today, there are high salaries in the cities, but it is possible to increase the salaries of teachers also in smaller schools.

Then, of course, there are local measures that can increase the opportunity for students to get qualified teachers. There were good examples presented in the local radio program that students are bussed to a school where there are qualified teachers. It is also important to retain the senior qualified teachers who want to continue working.

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## Åsa Morberg: Review of a book: " Interviewing"

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### Åsa Morberg: Interviewing - is actually mostly about listening

*A review by Åsa Morberg, associate professor of didactics*

In a recent book "To interview" Martin Rösthämmer, author and freelance journalist writes about interview. The book aims to be a guide to the "promised world of the interview." The book is inspiring for those who are going to interview. Interviewing is a noble art. It's not just an ordinary conversation.

The book's texts show that interviews can be so much and done in many different ways. The author's meetings with journalists, podcasts and writers show the breadth and great potential of the interview. But it is not only the ears that should be fully engaged when interviewing. It is also about opening other senses.

My reading of the book has been done with the researcher's eyes. The book can, in my opinion, very well be used for university and college students in behavioral and social science education as well as for virtually all professionals who are to conduct interviews. Since the book contains concrete examples of personal portraits based on interviews, it can really help beginners, but of course also students who have come a long way in the academic education structure.

The book comprises one hundred and ninety-one pages and has been published by Carlssons Bokförlag. On the cover is an illustrative drawing of an ear to manifest one of the book's main messages. The book layout is nice with i.a. a cover page in orange. The book is divided into ten chapters and a general presentation is made of the contents of the table of contents. The book contains interviews with seventeen people and at the back there is a brief description of these people. There is also a liberating short bibliography that occupies only thirteen works. The book is fairly easy to read.

The author has interviewed a number of famous people and also made personal portraits. It starts with Thorsten Flink, continues with Martina Montelius, Monica Saarinen, Martin Wicklin, Karl Ove Knausgård, David Lagerkrans, James Ellroy, Marie Branner, Matilda Voss Gustavsson and Stina Jofs, Annette Kullenberg, Stefan Löfven, Katarina Gunnarsson, Stina Dabrowski, Katarina Hahr, Titti Schultz, Anna Hedenmo, Johan Bendjeloul, Tom Cruise, Kristoffer Triumf, Fredrik Stage, Olof Lundh and Denise Mina. It is an interesting collection of interviewees, with different life stories and different life tasks.

The book has a breadth and shows the good and great possibilities with interviews. The author gives good method advice and a number of method instructions. The author is experienced and knowledgeable and he knows how to do a good interview. It's not just about asking questions and documenting. The author guides, in my view, the reader along the long, long road, step by step, for a (guaranteed) successful result.

There are many method books around interviews. What distinguishes this book from other method books is that the author presents a series of his own interviews in the book. The book provides a number of concrete examples of interviews on which the good advice and instructions are based. In chapter ten, the author gathers and establishes what is needed for the good interview. It is easy to agree with his concluding more general advice.

The book will be an interesting read through the personal portraits and not just an enumeration of good advice and instructions. It can be read as you would when choosing pralines

from a box of chocolates. You can take the very best first. Very fascinating reading. It is difficult to let go of the book once you have started reading.

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## Åsa Morberg: Recruitment of new members

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### **Recruitment of new members to Strömstad Academy - an important issue for the board**

*Reflections by Åsa Morberg, associate professor, board member of the board of Strömstad Academy*

Member recruitment has been handled mainly by former Rector Lars Broman and is now managed mainly by the current Rector Per Flensburg. After recruitment, an e-mail is sent to the board members with a question about approval of the election of a member. The board members usually approve. It often comes with information about the new member's strengths and competence, which you can of course supplement with your own online searches. Decisions are made per capsulam.

There have been discussions about how many members we other members have recruited to the academy. Our chairman has repeatedly argued that we other members should take much greater responsibility for the new recruitment of members of the academy. The members play a key role in the academy's growth and development.

When there is a new recruitment of members, a requirements profile should perhaps be established that aims to ensure that the new member or members have the competence and experience that Strömstad Academy needs to fulfill its self-imposed assignment. Or have there been new recruitments more unplanned? Of course it is also possible, but thinking proactively and planning ahead is one of the most effective things we can do in academia.

The board has overall responsibility for new recruitment of members if the charter has been interpreted correctly by me, and the responsibility can of course be delegated to individual members or even assigned to an external force to assist in formulating requirements profile at each new recruitment opportunity. The board should then take into account the organization's goals and activities, development stage and other conditions when recruiting.

Strömstad Academy should work for an appropriate composition of members, characterized by versatility and breadth regarding the members' competence, experience and background. Planning for a recruitment campaign is a clear possibility. Strömstad Academy now has no financial means at all to hire recruitment expertise, but there is certainly experience among the academy's members that can be used in the recruitment work. Many in the academy have certainly held managerial positions with recruitment responsibilities.

It is also important to think about how many members we should strive to be in the academy. As far as I know, no real roof has ever been discussed, but I may be wrong? We have members who resign from the academy as well. It is always up to that person and nothing that anyone else can comment on. What we can do is find out why members resign and try to think about how we do to keep members in the academy, if we think it's important.

There have sometimes been hasty departures and not all members who have left have offered a concluding conversation. We are an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary academy and it is a strength that provides unique opportunities for development. Do we recruit in our regular networks? Or do we go outside our regular networks to recruit members? Should we continue to recruit through "someone who knows someone"?

The recruitment work of new members should be put on the board's agenda and be the subject of discussion and decision.



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## John Fletcher: Why do we talk so much about recruiting new members?

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### Why do we talk so much about recruiting new members?

*Reflections by John Fletcher, MBA and deputy Board Member, upon reading Åsa Morberg's article.*

When Lasse and a group around him established the Strömstad Academy they did so in order to offer a possibility for scientists who had been forcibly retired from their positions to continue their work. The focus was to **offer an opportunity**.

This focus appears to have changed over time. Today, it seems to me, the following kinds of statements are made: *"It is important that the Academy can continue its work!"* and *"The Academy needs more money through more membership fees!"*

I was admitted to the Academy in spite of my lacking the research experience that you scientists have gained. This has caused a number of missteps on my part – but also the ability to frame new kinds of questions regarding the Academy's work, such as:

1. **"Why** does the Academy need to recruit more members?"
2. **"How** should the Academy go about recruiting new members?"

The first question relates to our ongoing discussion regarding what the Academy should offer its members. Ought the Academy to offer:

1. membership in a club for scientists,
  2. an opportunity for scientists to continue their research
- or
3. an opportunity for scientists to use their knowledge to influence the surrounding society.

Some of us (not least, I) have stressed the third aspect to the point (I have been told) where members who wish to focus on the first two aspects (they do not wish to act as 'activists') to question their continued membership. We need to share our visions of what the Academy can be in order to build a shared and very open vision regarding the further development of the Academy. By 'open' I stress that the Academy needs to offer ample 'space' for all the three aspects described above. At the same time, I believe that we need to return to Lasse's vision, **an Academy that offers a platform for continued research after their forced retirement**. That vision is still very relevant.

The second question concerns our strategy: **"How** should the Academy go about recruiting new members?"

Until now, we have worked almost exclusively through our personal networks. Given that we build on Lasse's vision, we need to reflect upon other ways to spread knowledge about our offer.

We need the experience that you scientists have gained over the years, but that experience needs to be enriched by a fresh marketing approach. Should we consider *'using more and broader channels such as commercial and/or non-profit organisations and/or our own or somebody else's journals?'* And *'should we challenge scientists by raising unresolved questions in different subject areas in the relevant trade magazines?'*

This seems to be a vital subject (among several others) for the coming discussions regarding our choice of development routes. The programme for the scientific festival in Strömstad on

20-23 June offers the following opportunities within the programme: Discussion: The Academy's future. Add to the scheduled meetings all the opportunities offered by meetings over lunches, dinners, coffees, walks in the garden, . . .

These Science Days offer ample opportunities to all of us to help shape the Academy's future, so **do participate and shape our future!**

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## **Gudmund Bergqvist: Editorial Committee**

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### **Editorial Committee 211101-220430**

The following have been members: Jens Allwood, Elisabeth Ahlsén, Anders Gustavsson, Per Flensburg, Bode Janzon, Rune Wigblad, Peter Währborg and Gudmund Bergqvist

1. The committee, meanwhile, has had 2 zoom meetings. It was discussed, in particular, cooperation with the marketing team
2. Discussion of how our publications are noted internationally. Recommendation to join the DOI - refer to the Board of Directors for decision
3. Discussions about publishing e-books and other alternative media
4. Discussions on the Tvärtänkt
5. During the period, the following publications have been published:
  1. book (printed)
  2. AAS 7 articles
  3. SAV 7 videos
  4. FFS 5 articles
6. Members of the Committee have been instrumental in organizing online lectures for members