



STRÖMSTAD AKADEMI

Nordiskt institut för avancerade studier

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2022, international edition

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Editor's corner

Editor's corner, 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.

Educator and Religion Scholar Carl Olivestam discusses the question of whether Strömstad Academy's meetings in the future should be physical, digital or in hybrid form.

Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist reflects on the difficult situation in war-torn Ukraine.

Ethnologist Anders Gustavsson represented Strömstad Academy at the University West's annual celebration in Trollhättan on 11 November 2022.

In the AAS-series no 70 **Chemist Ulf Berg** has published Right and Left in the Drug World. A stereochemical perspective <http://stromstadakademi.se/AAS/AAS-70.pdf>.

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 December issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 27 December 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. Texts should be in Word- or OpenOffice format!

Please, also send contributions to the Academy's publication series Acta Academia Strömstadiensis, AAS, and the video series SAV to the e-mail address: gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson
Layout: Per Flensburg

Chairman's report

Colleagues in Strömstad Academy

The local chapters and Strömstad. Sveza Daceva in Strömstad has offered to be convener of this chapter, and we thank you for this Sveza! With your contacts in the municipality, it will be so important/interesting to follow developments here, not least because there has now been some turbulence in Strömstad as municipal director Mats Brocker left office at the beginning of November this year, and a new director is to be appointed. We in the Academy should do everything to present ourselves in a relevant way to the new Board!

The work in each local chapter continues, where the Gothenburg chapter, headed by Jens Allwood, is an example and active monthly. The web meetings advertised here invite everyone to participate, keep an eye on your emails!

An important person, Museum Curator Ulf Hansson in Strömstad, passed away a month ago. It is with great sadness that we at the Academy received this information, and we want to express our warmest condolences to his family, and thank him for everything he contributed to the Academy's activities, and of course to everyone else; <https://www.stromstadstidning.se/nyheter/ulf-hansson-har-g%C3%A5tt-bort-han-hade-ett-stort-hj%C3%A4rta-1.83789795>

Further; Thank you Anders Gustavsson, Per Flensburg, Marylou and all of you who continue to work with the Academy's motto; "Retain and pass on knowledge in society regardless of age". Enumerating everyone who contributed to, and continues to contribute to, the Academy's activities would take up too much space. Remember to visit the Website from time to time to get current information, and also to make requests for any changes; <http://stromstadakademi.se/wp2/publikationer-2/videoserien/>

The Board will have a physical meeting in Falun on Friday 9/12. Here, in addition to completed and future projects, the Science Festival 2023 will be discussed, as well as not least the taking over of the chairmanship and treasurership by Åsa Morberg and John Fletcher, respectively.

The next day, Saturday 10/12, the local chapter in Falun will have a public meeting featuring several Academy members, e.g. Gudrun Olsson, Carl Olivestam and Peter Fritzell (see attached poster).

In total; Strömstad Academy is a crucially important actor in supporting research and putting Strömstad and Sweden on the map to help with just this!

Peter Fritzell

Vice-Chancellor's report

One of the aims of Strömstad Academy is to give the members maximum time for research and other activities and to reduce the administrative burden. For this reason, we make a fairly strict distinction between administration and operation. Administration deals with finances and organization and is led by the chairman. Activities in the form of publications, seminars, conferences are led by the Vice-Chancellor. To help them, there are a number of elected representatives in the form of a board and an editorial committee. A large part of the business takes place in local chapters that are led by a local convener. The tasks are described in job descriptions and in a delegation order. These will be available on the website and are at least

initially possible to comment on. In practice, it is a description of our current work and the purpose is to show grantees that we have order in our routines. With these as help, a lot of administration can be avoided. Everyone knows what decisions they can make and there is no need for discussion or any meeting.

Marketing

This is a problem. We need to create a group, separate from the management and with creative and committed members. Before that, there must be a clear description of the Academy's purpose and direction. It is important that we describe the Academy and its activities and not include a lot of administrative considerations. In this context, the association is a support for the Academy and its activities. Specifying the Academy's purpose and focus is a decision that the annual meeting makes. The main work for preparing this proposal lies with the Chairman and the Vice-Chancellor. Hopefully, this can be determined at the annual meeting in 2023. Before then, it should be discussed in the newsletter, in the AU and in the Board. Once purpose and focus are clear, marketing can finally begin. In the meantime, we can work according to the goal-means analysis below.

Goal-means analysis

In my last newsletter, I described a vision for Strömstad Academy. I will now do a consequence analysis of it and do it in the form of a goal-means analysis. There are other ways to do consequence analyses, for example SWOT analysis, but an goal-means analysis is more constructive and forward-looking. Of course, there may be other goals and other means, and they are by no means static. Both goals and means change as the organization develops, but this is my suggestion for how we should start.

Goal	Means
Become a vital, creative and active force in society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become famous/well known • Write debate articles • Write high-quality scientific publications
Attract attention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish Aha experiences • Appearing in the mass media • Debate articles
Become famous/well known	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a journal and get it registered in research databases
Write high quality articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear criteria for review • Encourage members to publish
Encourage publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinars that inspire • Clear criteria for review • Opportunity for discussion with fellow researchers
Inspirational webinars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many part
Clear criteria for review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the Editorial Board and covering as many topics as possible

Resources needed

To realize these goals we require certain resources. Below is a short list.

Means	Resources
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Become famous/well known	Logo, descriptive and selling text
Write debate articles	Knowledge of the current debate, selling text
Writing scientific publications	Possibility for digital meetings Opportunity to meet
Appearing in mass media	Selling text
Start magazine	Knowledge of how a journal qualifies for inclusion in the databases
Clear review criteria	Prepared by an editorial staff
Inspirational webinars	Good lecturers
Opportunity to discuss with fellow researchers	Discussion forum both in real time but also asynchronously.

We have two different organizations with partially overlapping goals: the Academy and the association. What I discussed above is the Strömstad Academy. That's why I didn't say anything about the secretary, office and other administration. What we've mainly dealt with in the last two years is the Strömstad Academy Association. Per leads the Academy and Åsa will lead the Association, but of course the two must work together. Our experience so far suggests that it will go very well.

Gudmund Bergqvist: Ukraine War 9 months

Ukraine War 9 months

Gudmund Bergqvist

It is now 9 months since the Putin regime in Russia started a war of aggression against its neighbor Ukraine a war that violates all international conventions. The war has continued from the Russian side with repeated war crimes and led to the largest wave of refugees in Europe since the 2nd World War. EU started the general Refugee Directive. Despite its potential superiority, the war has gone badly for Russia with heavy losses.

Ukraine has been backed from the "West "with heavy sanctions against Russia, large financial support and large arms/military supplies. Ukraine, but above all, the Ukrainian army has shown great competence, perseverance and will to fight. Russia has constantly stepped up most recently this fall with the forced mobilization of 300,000 men, some of which have already been sent to the front without training and it is trying to systematically destroy all infrastructure in Ukraine - another war crime.

Russia has launched an energy war against the EU, leading to high electricity prices and exacerbating inflation that came after the Covid 19 pandemic. It is essential for Ukraine and Europe and the world that Russia does not win the war! This would lead to further wars of aggression to expand the Russian Empire, Moldova and Georgia are likely to be the first victims but the list could be long!

It is a struggle between democracies and authoritarian states how to dominate the world order.

Ukraine needs all the support now with money, weapons and, after the war, both financial and technical support for reconstruction aimed at a functioning society and EU membership.

So hold on! Persevere! Reduce electricity use, Help Ukraine also through civil society!

Finally, as Cato says, *Praeterea censeo Kaliningradum esse demilitari* (by the way, I think Kaliningrad should be demilitarized) this would eventually facilitate change to democracy and the rule of law in Russia after the fall of the current regime.

Carl Olivestam: About SA-meetings

Should our SA meetings be physical, digital or in hybrid form?

Carl Olivestam

Over the years, we within the Strömstad Academy Board and in annual meetings have also thought about working methods. The pandemic came to stress our accustomed ways of working. Of course, it was convenient to avoid travel, overnight stays when the physical meetings were replaced with digital ones. After the pandemic subsided, at least in our minds, we started experimenting with hybrid meetings as well.

But it turned out that all alternatives to physical meetings had their limitations and difficulties to overcome. And so far, we have not managed to master these.

These problems are not something that concern only a non-profit association. It has become a societal problem. I was therefore delighted to come across an article where the writer more structurally gave his guidance on how we can straighten out the broken meeting culture.
<https://arbetsplatsenfokus.se/>

There are challenges, but most of all I see opportunities, writes article author Lena Falkman.

Applied to our non-profit meeting culture, this article, which is aimed at working life, can give us a starting point for our continued work.

Working methods should be related to what we focus on: Creativity/Results/Community feeling.

When it is decided, concrete guidance is needed regarding how we can achieve a structured form of implementation that gives all participants equal opportunities for active presence and which at the same time provides continued constructive activity for our SA.

First, we take inventory of the meetings we have and which ones we should have. Then we determine a meeting plan: Every six months, month, week.

After that, we consider and decide the meeting agenda and purpose, as well as the number of participants who will be at the meeting,

The decisions then determine which technique and form should be used.

In principle, meetings can be divided as follows and adapted in the form in which the meeting is to be conducted:

- Community meeting = physical
- Creative problem-solving meeting = physical
- Difficult conversations = physical
- Work meeting = physical or digital
- Reconciliation meeting = digital
- Project meeting = hybrid
- Information meeting = hybrid

There are certainly other approaches. Now, I do not believe that this guidance needs to be followed fundamentalistically.

With this information, I just want to provide a starting point for a constructive conversation to make gatherings more cohesive/community-enhancing/enjoyable.

*Carl E. Olivestam
Professor of Education
Strömstad Academy*

