



STRÖMSTAD AKADEMI

Nordiskt institut för avancerade studier

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 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. He also discusses the reasons behind the high electricity prices, especially in southern Sweden..

Educator Åsa Morberg presents the current bourgeois Swedish government's religious approach to religious free schools, which can be compared with the former social democratic government's approach. <http://stromstadakademi.se/FSS/FSS-31.pdf>. She also criticizes Education Minister Lotta Edholm's statement in favor of printed teaching materials in comparison with digitalisation.

Ethnologist Åsa Ljungström has published the paper A daughter being brought up in the 1890s: Interpreting the notes of a daybook in the anthology A Girl Can Do. Recognizing and Representing Girlhood. Edited by Tiffany R. Isselhardt. Pp. 53-88. Vernon Press 2022. Malaga.

Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist has written an Annual report for the editorial committee Strömstad Academy

Pharmacologist Marylou Wadenberg has written a summary of activities in the Strömstad Academy Executive Committee/AU during the second half of 2022.

Linguist Elisabeth Ahlsén reports on the seminar that Strömstad Academy held on 12-13 November in Mullsjö in collaboration with the Marston Hill Center for Quality of Life and the Immigrant Institute.

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson
Layout: Per Flensburg

In Falun, a Science Saturday was arranged on 10 December with the participation of Strömstad academy members John Fletcher, Peter Fritzell, Carl Olivestam and Gudrun Olsson.

In the video series no 60 **chemist Man Singh** has published Basics of Friction chemistry for capillary biophysics to prevent heart attack. <http://stromstadakademi.se/SAV/SAV-60.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 January issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 27 January 2023: 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 Strömstadensis, AAS, and the video series SAV to the e-mail address: gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com

Chairman's report

Colleagues in Strömstad Academy

The year 2022 soon comes to an end, and the Academy's operations continue to shoulder their responsibility as mediators of knowledge and competence in various scientific fields. At the end of the year, I will step down as chairman, which I have been for the past six years. For me it has been an eventful and sometimes dizzying time. I have learned a lot, and have seen how scientific collaboration on many different levels works thanks to the ideas of various members, paired with persistent and inspiring willingness to work. I feel very grateful!

There is a fundamental insight in the Academy that there are different cultures within different scientific disciplines, such as the humanities and natural sciences and their various subgroups. This means that, in order to achieve optimal conditions for interdisciplinary projects, great humility and sensitivity are required to reach an understanding of each other's perspectives on similar issues. Precisely the interdisciplinary perspective is a cornerstone of Strömstad Academy's approach to scientific work.

Much has happened in recent years, both nationally and internationally, and it has not been easy for anyone to relate to all the changed circumstances, not least to the pandemic. It is a sign of great strength that the scientific production in the Academy on so many different fronts still continued, and continues, uninterrupted. This describes exactly what the Academy stands for, that all the competence and experience that exists within science is important to take advantage of, and that this is continuously demonstrated and utilized for the benefit of everyone in our societies, also in a global perspective.

Strömstad Academy is an international institute, with representatives from both Sweden and other parts of the world. The pandemic has been detrimental to our physical meetings in Strömstad, which are held annually in June, with the municipality as co-organizer. Members from different countries who have regularly attended these meetings have not been able to do so, which has resulted in a reduced engagement from our international colleagues. It is an important task to restore this.

The pandemic has also resulted in the Academy, like all other organizations, having to adapt to meet more and more digitally. This has provided advantages in the current situation, but in the long run online meetings cannot replace physical ones, but rather complement them. Du-

ring physical meetings, you can often discuss more informally, which in my experience positively benefits both idea generation and practical work.

Regardless, I am convinced that the experiences and routines acquired by the Academy during this globally turbulent time, with a combination of physical, online and hybrid meetings, form a strong foundation, and also a prerequisite, for our continued work.

The incoming board, with Åsa Morberg as chairman, has at the last board meeting on 9/12, specifically highlighted a number of issues that are of particular importance in the coming year. These are in line with the issues that the Board previously pursued, and with an emphasis on the practical (see the minutes from the Board meeting), for example;

- Information that each member of the board must provide proposals on what is important to invest in during the working year 2023. Questions are sent out at the first meeting. At the first board meeting, the board members talk about what we on the board need to do. Everyone needs to contribute to the work. As a suggestion, we can use some questions:

- Which issues should we pursue?
- What questions are you passionate about?
- How are we seen from the outside? What role do you want SA to play for the outside world?
- How do we find new members?

Other crucial challenges, which I think I and the incoming Board agree on, are;

- Economics. We must have grants/funding to cover an office with secretaries.
- The design and functionality of the website. Here Per Flensburg makes a decisively important contribution, and he needs help with proofreading and updates
- Members - payment of annual fees, which has fallen behind during the pandemic
- Publications – Video series – Meetings. For example, which language should be used?
- Projects. Several are underway and how do we support these and make them available? Books?
- The local chapters. These are crucially important for the Academy's operations.
- Strömstad municipality. The cooperation with the municipal board and with the Gymnasium.

The board of the Academy, the various working groups and local chapters, as well as not least our various partners, such as the Strömstad municipal board, must get all credit for the Academy being able to work in the manner prescribed by the statutes;

"§1 Purpose and seat Strömstad academy is a Nordic Institute for Advanced Studies that conducts research and research supervision. The Academy also aims to be an academic residence for academics engaged in research, education and information and must work for cooperation between its members and between members and the surrounding community, especially Strömstad municipality. The seat of the Academy is Strömstad municipality."

Historically, this will be of inestimable importance to society, and something for all of us to be able to proudly refer to!

All members of Strömstad Academy each contribute positively to the business and listing the names of all those who have contributed and are contributing crucial time and energy cannot

be done in this column. However, I would like to send grateful thoughts to Aadu Ott, one of the co-founders of the Academy, together with i.a. Lars Broman. Aadu passed away in January 2020 and is deeply missed by all of us. All the representatives of the five local chapters should be highlighted (Jens Allwood- Gothenburg, John Fletcher - Falun, Marylou Wadenberg – Stockholm/Uppsala, Sveza Daceva - Strömstad, Bodil Frisdal-Malmö/Lund), as well as the responsible editors for our publications Gudmund Bergqvist and Anders Gustavsson. As well as our Vice-Chancellor, and also responsible for the website, Per Flensburg. Also, many thanks to our tireless secretary Marylou Wadenberg.

In conclusion, I would like to sincerely thank you all for the cooperation within the Academy during my years as chairman, and not least all the sharp debates. I hope to contribute in a relevant way in the coming years.

Peter Fritzell

Vice-Chancellor's report

This is the last report of the year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing Chairman Peter Fritzell for his dedicated work for the Academy over six years. Your commitment to and care for Strömstad Academy has been unparalleled. I hope that in the future we can take part in this in a less stressful way for you when you enter your new role as a board member.

At the same time, I welcome our new Chairman, Åsa Morberg, to the Academy. It looks like there will be order and significantly more planning than before. Let's hope that in the long run it leads to less administration and more workshop. Our Treasurer, K G Hammarlund, is also leaving his post. I will miss your extremely thorough analyzes of not only financial matters but in fact pretty much everything. You have prevented us from making big mistakes. And at the same time I welcome the new Treasurer, John Fletcher. His ability to ask the important questions has greatly impressed.

A couple of teachers at Strömstad's high school came up with a brilliant idea: Arrange a Nobel party for the high school students, when a "nobel prize" is awarded in the form of scholarships to 10 deserving students. Even more brilliant was the idea of asking Strömstad Academy if we could help. And we could. partly by donating 10 books, partly by signing in full academic dress with talons, beret and chain and handing out the prizes in ceremonial ways. In addition, I gave a short talk on Alfred Nobel, which can be seen on SAV-62. The event was greatly appreciated, both by teachers and students. Never in my 50-year academic career have I been greeted by so many whistles and cheers when I stepped on a stage! We will probably make this an annual event and the day before (or after, it depends) have a physical gathering with presentations by the Academy's researchers. It will be Sveza Filipova who gets to arrange this. She has also become convener of the local chapter Strömstad. A truly excellent choice, congratulations!

Another step forward in our contact with the surrounding community has been taken by Thomas Lingefjärd. As I told you in the last newsletter, Thomas has contacted Ljungskile Folkhögskola in order to start a science base year there. The Principal is positive, but a few prerequisites are required: 1) That the folk high school gets resources 2) That there are enough applicants 3) That there are teachers. We cannot do much about points 1 and 2, but point 3 falls entirely on Strömstad Academy's responsibility. Thomas has said that he can take care of physics and mathematics but we need chemistry and biology teachers. I called for such persons in the last

newsletter with meager results. Once again: It's about distance learning in science base year, a similar education that we tried to launch in Strömstad in collaboration with Högskolan Väst. Due to strict minimum volume rules and other administrative hurdles, nothing came of it that time. The folk high schools are much more flexible and usually have more motivated students. The work is of course remunerated. If you want to know more, contact Thomas or me and we will guide you further.

There have been a number of discussions about how Strömstad Academy is spelled, and it mainly concerns whether it should be capital or small A in academy. With reference to American conditions, some believe that there should be a capital a in Akademi, among other things to be polite. Now Strömstad is not located in the USA and we are a Swedish academy, so I believe that this justification is not valid. We don't yet have an official and accepted graphic profile where such things are regulated, but until then I have assumed this responsibility, manifested through a number of layout assignments. Therefore, I am deciding the following until the board decides otherwise: In the name "Strömstad academy" academy is written with a small a, but if the word "academy" is used in running text to refer to Strömstad academy, it should be written with a capital A. The justification is that The academy is different from all other academies.

With this storm in a teacup, all that remains is to wish Strömstad Academy's members, honorary professors and benefactors a Happy New Year!

Per Flensburg

Per Flensburg: Why electricity doesn't get cheaper

Why electricity doesn't get cheaper

Per Flensburg

During 2022, the average electricity prices in Sweden have become 4.5 times higher. The current government claims that this is because we have a shortage of electricity and they want to build more nuclear power plants. This is completely wrong: more nuclear plants do not affect the price.

According to the energy authority, in 2021 Sweden imported 8.3 Twh and exported 33.9 Twh. We are Europe's largest exporter of electricity. The fact that we sometimes import electricity is because the demand is so great that available domestic production is not enough. This applies especially when it is very cold, there is no wind and one or more nuclear power plants are at a standstill. But even if we build a lot of nuclear power plants, it does not affect the price and it depends on the free electricity market.

Sweden and Europe have deregulated electricity markets and electricity is traded in free competition. Electricity must be consumed at the same moment it is produced. It is sold on a spot market for non-divisible delivery. The Nordic electricity market includes NordPool, which is a common electricity exchange for the Nordic countries. There, the prices for each hour are determined one day in advance. Every morning until at noon/12:00, the players place their orders for the following day. Each bid specifies the volume that the operator is willing to buy or sell for a certain price for each individual hour. The highest bidder determines the price during the current hour. At 1 pm/13:00 every day, Nord Pool publishes the prices for the coming day. As the electricity market covers almost all of Europe, there are electricity suppliers who are willing to pay well for their electricity supplies and this raises prices.

Electricity cannot flow freely between countries because transmission capacity is limited. Since 2011, Sweden has been divided into 4 different electricity zones, with limited transmission capacity between them. Northern Sweden has hydropower and southern Sweden nuclear power. But nuclear power has begun to be phased out. Demand for electricity is high in southern Sweden because many people live there. Then you want to transfer cheap electricity from the north, but this is limited by the capacity of the lines. Therefore, electricity must be imported in the south when local production and transmission are not sufficient. Southern Sweden is connected to many countries that have higher prices and this drives the price of electricity up.

This has consequences. The electricity price in Sweden in 2021 in electricity zone 3 averaged SEK 0.31/Kwh, but in 2022 it is SEK 1.41/Kwh. The cost of producing electricity is about the same because we use very little coal, oil and gas. If we make a simplified assumption and assume that these figures apply to the entire country, then the Swedish electricity consumers pay an excess price of approx. 183 billion. This money goes directly into the electricity producers' coffers! And it is us electricity consumers who have to pay.

As long as there is someone in Europe who is willing to pay 3 kr/Kwh, this will be the price set for the electricity we import. The transmission capacity to high-paying countries will be utilized to the maximum, because in the choice between selling electricity in Sweden for 31 öre or to Germany for ten times as much, the choice is given. The Swedish electricity producers produce electricity at very low prices and make exorbitant profits.

Can we not leave the European electricity trade? No, because Sweden sometimes has to buy electricity from outside. And even worse: We cannot sell the excess electricity! In September 22 we imported 160 Gwh but exported 2,714 Gwh according to SCB. The basis is that electricity production and electricity consumption must be in full balance at all times. If there was some simple system to store electricity, the problem would be solved.

Elisabeth Ahlsén: Report from seminar at Marston Hill

Report from seminar at Marston Hill

Elisabeth Ahlsén

Strömstad Academy, in cooperation with Marston Hill Interdisciplinary Center for Quality of Life and the Immigrant Institute, arranged a seminar 12-13 November. Merrick Tabor, political scientist and expert on U.S. politics from Stockholm University gave a presentation of the political situation in the U.S. after the midterm elections. All votes were not yet counted, but some results appeared, i.e. that the Democrats had won the majority in the Senate, while the House of Representatives would be going to the Republicans. The meeting was a hybrid meeting with a group of participants gathering at Marston Hill and some being present via Zoom. The seminar started with a joint luncheon.

Friday afternoon, Merrick Tabor presented the electoral system of the U.S. and its historical background and commented on the background and prospects, based on the results of the election. Potential candidates for president and other consequences were discussed, Donald Trump and Joe Biden as well as other contenders. The results of the midterm elections will make it harder to pass new decisions/bills, since Democrats and Republicans can block each other's proposals and Joe Biden will have more limited possibilities for action.

In the evening, the group at Marston Hill enjoyed dinner together with continued discussion.

Saturday morning, Per Flensburg presented an analysis of the situation and possible developments of the Russian war in Ukraine. The situation and analysis were commented on and discussed by Merrick Tabor and other participants. The future consequences were more difficult to predict in this case.

The seminar ended with lunch.

Gudmund Bergqvist: Annual report 2022 from the Editorial Board

Annual report from the Editorial Board, Strömstad Academy

Gudmund Bergqvist

During the year, the Board consisted of Jens Allwood, Elisabeth Ahlsén, Per Flensburg, Anders Gustavsson, Bode Janzon Carl Olivestam a few months, and was then replaced by Åsa Morberg, Rune Wigblad, Peter Währborg and Gudmund Bergqvist as convener.

During the year, the Board held 4 meetings all on Zoom. Two printed books have been published. In the various series the following were published;

- ACTA Academiae Strömstadiensis (AAS) 9
- Free Series (FS) 11
- Strömstad Academy Videoseries (SAV) 19
- Preprint Series 0

Members of the Board have been very active in the production of online lectures, which has been done in collaboration with Rotary, the Immigrant Institute and others. In the spring of 2022, 10 lectures and in the second half of 2022, 13 lectures. From the Board have come two articles in Strömstads Tidning regarding the various series.

At the meetings, general principles regarding the Board's work, refereeing activities, upcoming anthologies, upcoming meetings and registration in DiVA have been discussed. DOI and principles, possible use of e-books and if the Academy were to publish a separate journal that is published a few times a year, and the publication of printed books. The Board has had discussions with the various local chapters.

Marylou Wadensjö: Summary of activities in AU, Q3 and Q4

Summary of activities in the Strömstad Academy Executive Committee/AU during the second half, June-December, of 2022 (i.e. Q3 and Q4).

The Executive Committee/AU consists of Per Flensburg - Vice-Chancellor, Peter Fritzell - Chairman of the Board, Anders Gustavsson – Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and Jens Allwood – Deputy Chair. Marie-Louise/Marylou Wadensjö serves as Secretary of the Board and of AU. The Academy treasurer KG Hammarlund also attends the AU meetings on a regular basis. During the second half, June-December, of 2022, incoming Chairman of the Board for 2023, Åsa Morberg and incoming Treasurer, John Fletcher have also attended the AU meetings as adjuncts. AU runs digital meetings (GoToMeeting) generally once a month.

The agenda for these second half of 2022 (Q3 and Q4) meetings has, among others, focused on the following items:

- Review of written Memo from previous meeting

- Economy; application for funding to establish a formal office
- The website – updating routines
- AAS, the Academy writing series
- Local Chapters
- Membership fee
- The Science Festival 2023/Strömstad High School
- Additional items

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 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.
- Treasurer KG Hammarlund is responsible for economy issues in AU and generally in the Academy.
- 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 (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 and Falun currently being the most active ones, 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 second half (Q3 + Q4) of 2022:

In summary: In addition to regular issues, the most important issues for AU, in the second half of 2022, have primarily been:

To offer for 2023 incoming Chairman of the Board Åsa Morberg and Treasurer John Fletcher to attend AU meetings for a smooth transition at the end of 2022. Therefore, Åsa Morberg and John Fletcher have attended all of AU meetings during the second half of 2022.

AU/the Executive Committee has also prepared issues and motions for the Board meetings on Oct 3rd and December 9th, 2022.

Finally, there have been discussions about:

- how to ensure the website is up-dated on a regular basis (this has not been the case so far)
- the role of the local chapters – how their work can be optimized
- how to ensure funding for important activities in the Academy – a formal office is needed; paying the membership dues needs to be secured
- how members see the future of the Academy – proposed strategies
- the importance of applying for funding to support continued work in the Academy, including financing of a formal office.

Additional issues

1. Members are active providing contributions/chronicles for 'Strömstads Tidning'; the planning of presentations and other activities on social media are also ongoing.
2. Members, for example Rune Wigblad, are active participating in national media debates.
3. A number of projects/working groups are active.
4. The local chapters now meet on a regular basis and an important task will be to find a coordinator for convenors after Bode Janzon who is stepping down.

AU has during the second half of 2022 had meetings via GoToMeeting:

On August 5th, September 20th and November 11th.

Marylou has been keeping written memos during the AU meetings. These have been revised by Peter Fritzell and then e-mailed out to the 4 representatives of the AU, to the Treasurer KG Hammarlund and also to the incoming Chairman Åsa Morberg and incoming Treasurer John Fletcher.

There has been discussions on how much of the collected documentation on the Academy operational activity over the last 6 years (currently i.a. on files in Chairman Peter Fritzell's office) that should be transferred to the incoming Chairman Åsa Morberg. This will ultimately be decided at the next constituent board meeting on January 11th, 2023. Call for meeting and agenda will be sent out by the incoming Chairman within stipulated time.

Marie-Louise/Marylou Wadenberg

Peter Fritzell

Taking notes/Secretary

Text reviewed