



News Forum

Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

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Editor's corner Anders Gustavsson

Editor's corner

Anders Gustavsson

Vice-Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg and Educator and Chairman of the Board Åsa Morberg informs about news in Strömstad Academy.

Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist emphasizes the importance of continued support for Ukraine.

Physicist Lars Broman and **Ethnologist Anders Gustavsson** represented Strömstad Academy at the Vice-Chancellor installation on 12 October at University West in Trollhättan.

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

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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 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 Open Office format!

Please, also send contributions to the Academy's publication series Acta Academia Strömstadiensis, AAS, to peter@wahrborg.se, the video series SAV to: gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com and the Free Series to: per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson
Layout: Per Flensburg

Chairman's and Vice-Chancellor's report

November's monthly report

Per Flensburg & Åsa Morberg

We thought the attempt to write a joint report was so successful that we will continue doing that way.

The association, collaboration and member

Now we are in November, the first month of winter. It has been frosty and actually a bit of rain mixed with snow. All you have to do is bring out the snow sled and the snow shovels and wait for winter, which is coming. We have winter time now too. I thought that our joint monthly column would be about the association, the individual and the team! It can be translated to the work in the association, you and me as individual members and last but not least cooperation or teamwork.

CV online - post CV or link to CV

An initial consideration once again regarding the CV that we decided a long time ago should be online. We are missing CVs from many members. Surely all members have a CV that can be posted? It should be a simple thing to fix for seasoned academics. Now we all take the plunge and post our resumes or simply post a link. Our website is our face to the outside world. If 50% of the members have a CV and the rest of them don't, it gives a strange and somewhat unprofessional impression. Online CV means that other members can reach out and contact you for exciting projects. If we visit the minister and he goes online and finds that we can't even post CVs, that's not good. Send your CV (or a link to it) to either per@flensburgs.se or mlwadenberg@telia.com.

The internal communication pattern – why is it the way it is? How can we clean it up and get some decent routines?

Our current communication pattern contributes to the "internal mess". Members write e-mails about big and small issues to the entire Board. We receive complaints from those who are disturbed by mass emailing. You don't always have to hit the 'reply all' and you don't have to send the entire previous conversation. Can't we just try to respect each other so much that we don't send everything to everyone?

What does our email policy look like?

How do we want to use e-mail in Strömstad Academy? A good collaboration can only be created through effective communication. The best proven way to avoid misunderstandings is to have personal, ie. physical, conversations and it is a pity that we can't have frequent physical and personal conversations. Video conferencing is problematic. Technical hassle, hard to hear and sometimes also hard to see. In e-mail communication, it is difficult to pay attention to body language and tone of voice. Prioritizing two-way communication, ie. that listening to others, is not easy. Instead, you have to think about what you should write/say next. We should also stick to facts that everyone has experience with and can relate to. A story is actually your own interpretation of the situation described. Then we should also make sure we are talking to the right person as well. The Vice-Chancellor handles all academic matters in Strömstad Academy. The Chairman takes all Board matters. Poor communication occurs when you talk to the wrong people, about the wrong things and in the wrong context. Surely we should be able to improve our internal communication??

Democratic processes in Strömstad Academy are the hub

Association democracy is an important part of Strömstad Academy's way of functioning. Association democracy means, among other things, that the association's members govern the association by voting on issues where agreement cannot otherwise be reached. Democracy in an association is exercised through an association general meeting/annual meeting, which in most associations is held once a year. Each member's vote at the annual general meeting then carries equal weight. This is also the case in Strömstad Academy. Democracy means that the majority decides, not an individual member. This applies both to the Board and the Annual Meeting. The only exception is that the Chairman alone determines the agenda at board meetings. In Strömstad Academy, however, the agenda is discussed first in the working/executive committee. It is the members of Strömstad Academy who at the Annual Meeting decide on the regulations of the association (statutes), and each member has one vote there. The Annual Meeting also decides on other regulatory documents where decisions are delegated to different functions, all to reduce bureaucracy and give the members maximum opportunities to devote themselves to the business.

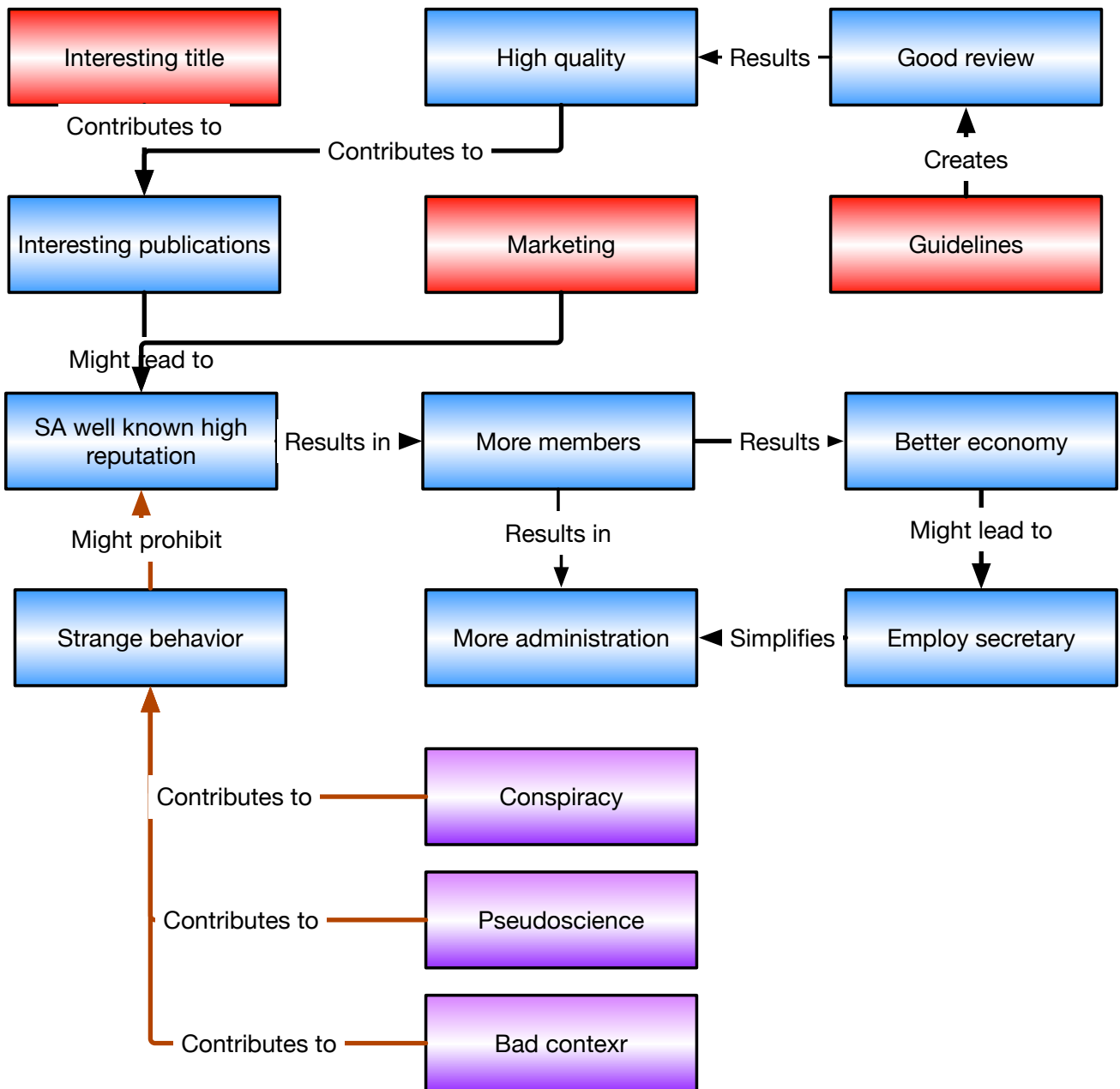
Quality

This segment is partly based on an article that Per wrote on Tvärtänkt. In it he discusses the relationship between rules, quality and administration. We have process descriptions and would be able to ensure quality according to ISO-9000 with not too much effort. This increases our chances of being qualified as grant recipients. But our results, our publications and our webinars do not improve because of that. There are other things that will affect this area: Knowledge, being well-read, boldness and originality are important factors for our writings to be read and appreciated. Some of us believe that this is enough and that our books sell themselves if they are good enough. We do not agree with them. It is not sufficient to write high quality articles, they must also be read. If more people appreciate what is said/published, it will spill over to SA. And of course the reverse applies: Bad quality results in a bad reputation.

What makes people read an article? The title is what you first see and it determines whether you want to continue. Take e.g. these two titles from a publication list: 1. Systems Developers: Preoccupations, Knowledge and Power; 2. Becoming Professor with almost no publications. The first was written in 1990 and has 13 downloads. The second was written in 2017 and has 2,683 downloads. The title of the second article is much more interesting than the first, although the content itself can be just as interesting in both articles. So we should probably put quite a lot of care into selling titles. To paraphrase Nils Ferlin: Of course we also write for entertainment venues!

Per has been thinking that we should publish a magazine once or twice a year. It must be interdisciplinary, have a theme for each issue and be of at least AAS quality. Basically, it's an anthology. It will hopefully activate several of our members, we have the opportunity to get the magazine listed in some of the big databases and thus become known. The Royal Library has a page, "Publish", where you can publish your journal free of charge, provided that you do not charge for publishing articles or for reading them.

Apart from the quality problems, we have the economy, which is divided into two areas: 1. Applying for grants 2. Recruiting members and getting them to pay the membership fee. The last thing: Getting people to pay means that at the beginning of the year we send out an invoice, which says which amount to be paid and what paying options are available. This should be a physical document sent out by mail. It costs a few thousand Swedish kroner but can be worth the effort. Then you should periodically remind those who are lethargic and after May 30 they will have no right to vote at the Annual Meeting. Recruiting new members



is connected to making SA known. We consider high quality and interesting publications to be the key.

In summary, everything is connected and Per has made a systems theory analysis of the whole thing, see figure above. What everything depends on is that SA becomes known and appreciated. If the goal is for seniors to be able to continue researching and teaching, this means that they want to publish themselves and be read. An interesting publication with a good title is the first step. However, the content must be good and it requires a review based on clear and strict criteria. Many rejects are equated with high quality, but probably lead to fewer members wanting to write. We believe that it is precisely the opportunity to publish their ideas that drives many people, even if they do not recover afterwards. We would suggest that, in principle, we do not refuse, but instead have many major revisions and where we are helped to guide the author. The problem is our interdisciplinary nature with completely different criteria in different subjects. According to the analysis, surprisingly, criteria for review of AAS articles is the most important thing to do if the Academy is to develop

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Marketing is also such an activity and here we just want to point out the importance of both marketing the Academy and also our publications. Titles are greatly undervalued, we must have extremely attractive titles for our publications, not just traditional academic and descriptive ones. The negative factors associated with academia are troubling ourselves perhaps the most. At the same time, we must have high ceilings and we have a statutory freedom of expression. But it is important that we always point out that the members' statements are their own and not the Academy's. However, history has shown that sometimes it was the weirdos (Copernicus, Galileo, Einstein) that were right and the establishment that was wrong. But most weirdos are just that, weirdos.

Science Festival 2024 -06-10 --13

The Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor have decided that the Science Festival will take place on June 10-13. It is now clear that we can be in Skagerack, but we have also booked Farsal on Monday and cafe Guldtuppen in the afternoon/evening. There is a planning group consisting of four members: Lasse Broman, Peter Fritzell, Rosa Jörgensson and Sveza Filipova Daceva. It is a very good group with strong local connections. Views on the program are channeled to Per and Anders. Opinions on everything else go to the planning group. The Science Festival is important both for the individual members of Strömstad Academy and for the social interaction between the members. It is also important to make Strömstad Academy better known. It is now a matter of balancing these two objectives! The Chairman has contacted Strömstad's newspaper to get more information out about the Science Festival.

Last but not least the local chapters

We need to get reports from the local chapters. We have Bodil Frisdal in Lund, Jens Allwood in Gothenburg, Sveza Filipova in Strömstad, Peter Fritzell in Falun and Marylou Wadenberg for Stockholm/Uppsala. We have received reports from Jens and Marylou. We also need to ask the group of local chapter managers to discuss who should be the convenor in the coordinator group and notify us of this.

Gudmund Bergqvist. Ukraine November 23

Ukraine November 2023

Gudmund Bergqvist

The war continues unhindered. In October, another conflict started with the terrorist sect Hamas' attack, killing 1,400 Israeli civilians and visitors. Israel's response, as expected, has been very harsh. Hamas is hiding behind the civilian population, which has resulted in large numbers of deaths and injuries among them, giving Hamas political advantages and Israel a lot of criticism and causes polarization in the West

Politically, the situation is complicated and it attracts a lot of attention. The winners seem to be Putin and the Iranian mullahs, by changing the focus of world politics and Ukraine getting less ammunition etc. Ukraine needs our continued wholehearted support, above all because the war is no longer the focus of the mass media. If you want to show your commitment, you can at **United24** show your support either to military, medical or civilian activities. Ukraine's victory will also be a victory for the Russian people and can open up for the country to develop in a different, ie. democratic, direction! In the Israel/Hamas conflict, there are only losers.

It is interesting when one of our members publishes in one of the major international journals. Our member Emma Bergqvist is a co-author to an article in Pediatric Research: **Long-term immune response to SARS. CoV 2 infection and vaccination in children and adolescents**. This shows the importance of having young and scientifically active members in the association.

Anders Gustavsson: Installation of Vice-Chancellor at University West



Anders Gustavsson, Vice-Chancellor Mats Jägmark and Lars Broman at the Vice-Chancellor installation on 12 October 2023 at University West in Trollhättan.