



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. They discuss the local chapters' work in 2024. Flensburg presents different types of registration of publications.

Pharmacologist Marylou Wadenberg summarizes activities within the Executive Committee of Strömstad Academy during the second half year of 2023.

Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist discusses the Ukrainian war, Holocaust, Holomodor, the population issue and presents the Marston Hill conference center in Mullsjö. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88170455681?pwd=TG93WE1MUFJkK3JDNUZCQVdCNVdPUTo9>

Ethnologist Anders Gustavsson has in ARV. Nordic Yearbook of Folklore 2023 pp. 147-160 published the article *Nils-Arvid Bringéus as a folklorist*.

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 February issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 25 February 2024: 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 Reprint Series and the Free Series to: per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se

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Chairman and Vice-Chancellor's report

Åsa Morberg, Per Flensburg

Then we have reached the end of the month of January, 2024. We have received the long-awaited light back. We are actually beginning to sense the arrival of spring. However, there is still a lot of winter left, but not in the whole country. Spring begins in the south.

About the Science Festival 2024 – come, listen and talk!

The Science Festival is Strömstad Academy's most important meeting place for new knowledge, new inspiration and new perspectives. We hope for many participants from the Academy, get the dates down in your calendar: 10-13 June 2024. We also hope for many external visitors. We will start informing already now in Strömstads Tidning in the form of a guest column and hopefully an article about the Science Festival.

Our Vice-Chancellor Per Flensburg and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Anders Gustavsson are responsible for the Science Festival program. A preliminary block in the program can be found elsewhere in the present Newsforum. If you have views on the program itself, you should contact Per and Anders. Then there is a local working group that supports the work with meeting points, refreshments, pleasantries and everything else that contributes to a pleasant festival. Lars Broman is convener, together with Peter Fritzell, Sweza Filipova and Rosa Jörgensson. If you have ideas on the surrounding arrangements, please contact the local working group.

The ambition is for the festival to be a pleasant experience where you can meet members in pleasant ways. We all want to experience that.

About reviews of Strömstad Academy's many publications

We talked long and hard about reviews on the Editorial Board. It was an interesting conversation. On the one hand, reviews are needed, on the other hand, no members want to write them. Reader opinions and feedback, in the form of reviews, are actually important to authors when it comes to the exposure of our books. The more frequently and positively our titles are reviewed, the better our books will sell.

The time we live in offers plenty of information and recommendations in different channels. At Strömstad Academy, we have two forms of reviews, partly presented in various media, partly as YouTube films. Indeed, reviews still play a crucial role in building trust in our publications and attracting new customers to buy our books. It's hard to say which type of review works best. It is likely that different people prefer different types of reviews.

So what exactly is a review? It comes from the Latin word "recensio" which means "to review" or "to assess". A review is thus an assessment or an evaluation of a book, or in academic language: a review. It is made by a person who has read and had experience with the book in question. Actually, you should not have any ties to the authors, but you should be able to write and be completely free and independent.

We both think it's fun to read books and review them. It can be difficult to get them published, but if you are a diligent reviewer, you get books sent to you and it is understood then to review. You must also have somewhere to send the review. It is preferable to establish a reasonably fixed relationship between the author and the media.

How do you write a review? The members of Strömstad Academy have certainly read a plethora of reviews and the vast majority have actually written many reviews, albeit in the form of reviews of journal or conference contributions. One learns to write simply by reading re-

views. There are very good templates to adopt. A headline that captures the reader's interest is important. A brief introduction that gives a clear picture of the book's content may follow. Then follows the reviewer's thoughts on the book's content. A conclusion is needed, of course. You can study various writing tips online.

You need to provide data about the book: Author, title, publisher and year of publication. A summary description of the content. Describe any characters and describe the theme. Your thoughts as a reviewer need to be highlighted. Write something about the author's writing style and say something about the language. Otherwise, you can fantasize freely and add what seems appropriate. Describing which text the author is writing is an interesting addition. The central concepts can be highlighted. The target group for the book can be added.

An alternative to a review is a filmed discussion with one of the authors, which is then posted on our YouTube channel and on our website. A couple of these already exist and can be watched/viewed in our video series. Per can take on any of the roles, but other and preferably less active members are welcome to pitch in.

The courtship of the Minister of Education

We eagerly await a response to our letter requesting a time for courtship. We intend to wait three working weeks and then call for a response to our letter. We expect to somehow meet either the minister or the political secretary. We thank you for what is offered. Åsa will meet the Minister of Education's political secretary on 31 January. That time it is about stopping the closure of smaller schools. It can be a good practice for our upcoming courtship.

It is possible to subscribe for news from the Department of Education. There is basically a news item every day. There is a lot of activity from both ministers, the Minister of Education and the School Minister. We hope that our letter from Strömstad Academy is attractive. We are offering something for the Minister of Education, and that is important. If the Minister of Education is to meet us from Strömstad Academy, we must offer something at the meeting that is attractive to the Minister. Politicians want to be able to use what is presented at a lecture in their own political career. The minister can certainly do that.

Of course, a certain political courage is required from the Minister of Education to tackle the issues we highlight. The Ministry of Education has shown great commitment and the Ministry program appears to be full. What we ask of the minister in the courting letter and what we offer should attract the minister to choose to contact us. We are anxiously awaiting word.

The agenda for Strömstad Academy

There is a lot on the agenda now. We would like to remind you that all records are online. When the Board's minutes are adjusted and ready, they are posted online. Members can read or download the minutes. You can find them on the website under the tab "Organization", there you select "Internal" and then "Members". You log in to the page and can then click through to the desired records. These are not in the same system as the website but on Google Drive, so the user interface is not particularly sophisticated.

We will also adjust the calendar and make sure it is posted.

We currently have no administrative support and we need both to simplify and rationalize. None of us want to spend more time on administration than is absolutely necessary. We have big issues going on. Electing a new Vice-Chancellor is a big issue, for example.

The Nominating Committee number of individuals has now been completed with Gudmund Bergqvist. There are now three individuals in the Nominating Committee, according to the charter. We hope that the Nominating Committee will reach out to the members.

The local chapter activities

The local chapter activities in 2024 - report on the local chapters to the Board

By Per Flensburg and Åsa Morberg

At the last board meeting, the activities of the local chapters were discussed. We would like a report from the convenors in the local chapters for the next board meeting. This is currently the local chapters: Bodil Frisdal (South local chapter, Lund) Jens Allwood (Gothenburg local chapter), Sveza Filipova (Strömstad local chapter), Peter Fritzell will assume responsibility from 2024 for the Falun local chapter and Marylou Wadenberg (Uppsala/Stockholm local chapter).

Marylou has written a brief report on the restart of the Uppsala/Stockholm local chapter. Åsa Morberg had the privilege of also participating in the digital restart meeting. It was mainly about presentations by members of the local chapter. Marylou has done a very good job of bringing about a restart of the Uppsala/Stockholm local chapter. The possibility of resuming the Uppsala/Stockholm local branch looks hopeful.

Jens Allwood has a fantastic business with his webinars. Such interesting and current themes. These webinars mean a lot for the cohesion of Strömstad Academy. They are open to everyone. Very good initiative by Jens Allwood.

Can we please ask the convenors in the southern chapter and the Strömstad local chapter to report on the chapter activities so we know the status of the chapters. We have discussed possibly giving the local chapters a budget and then we need reports from those who have not heard from us. This also means that we need to formally appoint the convenors to the Board. Suggested one year at a time.

Peter Fritzell has taken over the convenor responsibility for the 'Falugruppen'. He has taken over from John Fletcher, who has the task of treasurer in Strömstad Academy and who also takes on major development responsibility for the Academy. We wish Peter Fritzell the best of luck. There is a nice tradition in the 'Falugruppen' with joint lunches that Lars Broman initiated. It will be exciting and fun to see how Peter intends to work. Åsa, only has about 7 Swedish miles to Falun and can participate in activities. There is also a nice tradition of science days. It has been run in collaboration with the Dalarna museum, but if we understand correctly it will be in collaboration with Folkuniversitetet. It is a great activity, which can possibly inspire other local chapters.

We have not received reports from Sveza Filipova and Bodil Frisdal. We need to get reports from the Strömstad and the southern local chapters.

Bodil Frisdal led a discussion about the purpose, goals, working methods and content of the local chapters. She herself is a convnor in the southern chapter and she put forward a thought-provoking opinion which means that the local chapters should be the hub around which developmental work in Strömstad Academy revolves. That was a very good idea. The local chapters work in different ways and with different things, and that should be the nature of the organization. Different members create activities that suit their specific local chapter. Writing online using email is good if you want to raise a problem, but if it's going to be a so-called workshop, it has to be done differently! If members want support from the Board, a letter to the oBard is needed, e-mail in all respect, but it needs to be formalized.

We quote Bodil Frisdal from 2022 saying: *"I don't need (as suggested) any "advisors" or "advice" regarding how to arrange lecturers or connect to various organizations such as Rotary and others. As a lecturer, I have worked with students and booked lectures and*

study visits both at Lund and Malmö universities both in and outside the country for more than 40 years. It's not my problem! One of the first questions that should be addressed both at the local meetings and the board meetings is: How is it that so few of the members outside the Board are noticed or not taken advantage of. How to go about changing this?"
13 May 2022 at 14.55.

What Bodil Frisdal seems to want is an active exchange between the Board, local chapters and members. Bodil claims to be alone in this. Everyone who works actively in Strömstad Academy has nevertheless pointed to this and discussed this in detail and been concerned about the fact that it is so. It is about increasing the commitment to the Academy that Bodil so persistently pointed out. She believes that one of the first questions that should be addressed both at local chapter meetings and board meetings is: How is it that so few of the members outside the Board are noticed/seen or not taken advantage of. How to go about changing this, she wonders.

So far there has not been a proposal from Bodil about this? There is a group of so-called "activists" in Strömstad Academy, and a group that is of the opposite kind. How can more people be involved in the work at Strömstad Academy? It is not only a question for Bodil Frisdal, but actually a question for all of us in the Academy. Bodil is not alone here.



Peter Fritzell has pointed to the so-called Pareto principle as an explanation for the low activity. Vilfredo Pareto (1848-1923, see picture) was an Italian sociologist and national economist. He showed that 20 percent of the Italian population owned 80 percent of the property. This observation has later, by others, been generalized to the effect that 20 percent of the causes account for 80 percent of the effects. This principle, also known as the 80-20 rule, applies to almost all activities and so also Strömstad Academy. It seems to be some kind of natural law and we have seen no explanation. Perhaps one of the members of the Academy can help us out here?

Is there any way to get around the Pareto principle? An obvious way is to divide the organization into smaller units, where the 80-20 rule applies in each unit, but overall more individuals are still active. The division into local chapters is a step in this direction. But there are several ways. One way is to get together a joint project, in our case to write an anthology. In all our anthologies, non-activists have also been involved. Bodil Frisdal has had similar thoughts when she suggested subject groups and Per also has it when he suggests starting a magazine. We also have the webinars and lectures at Bohuslän's museum as examples of similar activities. The idea of a discussion forum was also to be able to initiate interesting academic debates in a more spontaneous way, but as you know, it didn't work. But the principle is: Let all flowers bloom!

We ourselves do not see the local chapters as the only hub for developmental work in the Academy, as colleagues with similar interests and a willingness to work with the areas of interest are needed. We believe that the Academy level is also needed to create operational developmental groups.

The function, purpose, goals, content and working methods of the local chapters really need to be discussed. A review of the local chapters and an exchange of experiences between them is needed. We need to review the local chapters and it cannot wait. How many mem-

bers are there in the chapters? What do the chapters work on? They can work on different things but inspire each other.

It is, of course, also about what members want to get out of their membership in the Academy. Should it be that activists are the norm, and non-activists violate the expectations of behavior that apply within a social community in academia? For our part, you can use Strömstad Academy in any way you want and can. It's nice to have activists for the activities in Strömstad Academy, but if you don't feel like getting active, that should also be OK! Right? In the associations we have been members of, there have generally always been some activists and others who do not become active.

The goal may be to increase the percentage of activists, but those who do not want, cannot or don't have the energy to become active must also be welcome in Strömstad Academy.

Gudmund Bergqvist: Holocaust and Holomodor

Holocaust and Holomodor

Gudmund Bergqvist

January 27th is the day when the Holocaust is commemorated in a time when the ugly face of antisemitism is increasingly visible. There is therefore all the more reason to celebrate/honor it. However, I will also mention the other great genocide in Europe: Stalin's Holomodor where 4-10 million, mostly Ukrainians, starved to death due to the regime's criminal actions. The European Union and a large number of countries have recognized this as genocide in Ukraine, the day is celebrated/honored on the 4th Saturday in November. Don't forget Holomodor! Finally, I would like to remind you of the third great mass killings during the 20th century, the Mao Great Leap Forward, where 20 or 40 million starved to death because of the regime's bizarre ideology. When shall we have a memorial for that and rehabilitate the victims? Hitler does not escape the connection to the Holocaust, while Stalin and Mao seem to have escaped relatively unscathed. Let's stop that. They should have all the shame and contempt for their misdeeds.

Gudmund Bergqvist: Ukraine war, Population and Marston Hill

Ukraine War

Gudmund Bergqvist

It is now 10 years since Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and the Donbass region by force. This accompanied the imposition of sanctions by the West. In the aftermath, various attempts were made to reconcile the parties, but the army positions were fought along the long front in a low grade war. The situation changed drastically with Russia's full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022 and the result was a major war in Europe where the EU, UK and US supported Ukraine morally, economically and militarily. So far, support has been united, but there are signs of faltering both within branches of the Republican Party's Trump wing and among far-right parties in Europe. These forces do not recognize the cost of their policies of discontent. Unless Ukraine does not win, Russia, whose economy is now on a war footing and focused on protracted war and has the support of various authoritarian states with North Korea and Iran in the lead, will have carte blanche for states to annex and occupy other states.

China and India? and Russia is trying to use the war for a changed world order. So long with human rights, equality, democracy, rule of law and other Western values. A Russian victory will likely bring attacks on various states, such as the Baltic's, Moldova, Georgia and perhaps even Finland and Sweden. To prevent this, a major rearmament will later be needed, which will be extremely costly. We are not talking here about 2.5% of GDP but perhaps with Russian victory 5 %, which will have a major impact on other social activities. A Ukrainian victory will be a victory for the Russian people as well, with the possibility of development towards democracy! Support Ukraine morally and politically and economically with donation at United 24

Finally, I would like to say **Slava Ukraine** (long live Ukraine) and

Praeterea censeo Kaliningradum esse demilitari.

The Population Question

In connection with the Academy's meeting on May 23, the so-called population issue was discussed in several lectures and articles, and videos have been added to the Academy publication series since then. The issue is relevant in various ways and is not only about fossil fuels, carbon dioxide and other things, but also about biodiversity, etc. An interesting article on this issue can be found in the newspaper Svenska Dagbladet SvD on January 3 by Professors Malte Andersson and Frank Götmark. And their second article on January 15 in SvD. Those who are interested in following the issue can sign up to Johanna Deinum (johanna.deinum@telia.com) in the so-called population network, which distributes articles and discussions on the matter. Lasse Broman proposed the population question should be goal no.18 in the UN's goal for 2030. Search and read in this essential question!

Marston Hill. A Center for science.

For more than 10 years, Strömstad Academy has held its annual meetings in the summer in Strömstad. But there are also other encounters. In December, there have often been 1-(2) day meetings in Falun since 2015 in collaboration with, among others, Dalarna Museum and Folkuniversitetet.

In recent years, there have also over the year been conferences at Marston Hill in Mullsjö. These conferences have often also been online. On 7 February 2024, Jens Allwood will in an online lecture present the history and facts about this popular conference venue that in recent years has had arrangements for smaller conferences in collaboration between Strömstad Academy and the Immigrant Institute, which it hopefully will continue to have as a 3rd leg for Strömstad Academy.

Strömstad Academy Executive Committee report

Summary of activities in the Strömstad Academy Executive Committee/AU July - December 2023 and January 2024.

Marylou Wadenberg

The Executive Committee/AU consists, as of January 1st 2023, of Per Flensburg - Vice-Chancellor, Åsa Morberg - Chairman of the Board, Anders Gustavsson – Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and Jens Allwood – Deputy Chair. Marie-Louise/Marylou Wadenberg serves as Secretary of the Board and of AU. The Academy treasurer John Fletcher also attends the AU meetings on a regular basis. AU runs digital meetings (jitsi/zoom) generally once a month.

The AU work has during this second part of 2023 + January 2024 been guided by the new Chairman of the Board, Åsa Morberg.

The agenda for the meetings has, among others, focused on the following items:

Review of written Memo from previous meeting

Economy; approaching the Minister of Education for funding possibilities (admin, office)

The Science Festival in June 2024

The Annual Meeting in June 2024

Academy by-laws – changes

The website – maintenance

Local chapters

Members – recruitment/fee

Interimistic Ethics working group

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 (via the jitsi platform) 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:

- Vice-Chancellor, 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 (from 2023 together with Marylou Wadenberg), 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 John Fletcher is responsible for overall economic issues.
- 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 Åsa Morberg, 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. She also keeps a close oversight over the regular agenda items at AU meetings (please see above).

Working Groups (ordinary) in some cases have someone in charge that is not part of AU. These individuals then most often report to Åsa Morberg and Anders Gustavsson.

The local chapters, Gothenburg and Falun currently being the most active ones, arrange and send invitations to meetings and webinars on various topics. Video records are posted on the Academy website (<http://stromstadakademi.se>) and when appropriate also published in the video series (SAV) and on the Academy youtube-channel.

Important results during these second 6 months of 2023 + Jan 2024:

In summary: In addition to regular issues, the most important issues for AU so far have primarily been:

- To prepare issues/items and motions for the Board meetings on Oct 11, and Dec 18, 2023.
- To discuss the process of electing a new Vice-Chancellor, as sitting Vice-Chancellor Per Flensburg will not be up for re-election. And in this process examine/review the work of the Nominating Committee.
- To discuss and consider how the process of new anthologies (Methods; Power Structures) should be handled and budgeted.
- To work on plans for the upcoming Science Festival in June 2024.
- To prepare for approaching the Minister of Education (Mats Persson) for funding possibilities (admin, office).
- To establish a new marketing group.

Finally, there have been discussions about:

- the website maintenance
- activity in the local chapters
- recruitment of new members; membership fee issues
- The Academy general objectives and proposed strategies
- economy in general; funding for establishing an office, marketing etc

Additional issues

1. Members are active giving talks, providing contributions/chronicles for 'Strömstads Tidning'; presentations posted on social media (Youtube) are also ongoing.
2. Members, for example Rune Wigblad, are active participating in media debates.
3. A number of projects/working groups are active.
4. Local chapters are in general active.

AU has in the second half of 2023 + Jan 2024 had meetings via jitsi-meet/zoom:

On Aug 23, Sept 11, Oct 3, Nov 6, Dec 12 2023 and on Jan 15 2024.

Marylou has been keeping written memos during the AU meetings. These have been revised by Åsa Morberg and then e-mailed out to the AU members, and to the Treasurer John Fletcher.

Marylou Wadenberg
Secretary

Åsa Morberg
revision