STRÖMSTAD AKADEMI
*Nordiskt institut för avancerade studier*

# NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020

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## Anders Gustavsson: Editor's corner

***Vice-Chancellor and physicist Lars Broman*** *reports on current news in Strömstad Academy.*

***Surgeon and Chairman of the Board Peter Fritzell*** *also reports on current news in Strömstad Academy.*

*October´s cronicle in Strömstads Tidning on 24 October was written by* ***educator Åsa Morberg.*** *She reviews the book "Sverige läser! 1066 böcker ur tusen år av svensk litteratur från vikingatid till år 2 000".*

*Proposals for new chronicles in Strömstads Tidning should be sent to* ***Mariana Back*** *mariana.back@tekniskamuseet.se.*

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson
Layout: Per Flensburg

***The elected new Vice-Chancellor for 2021 and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg*** *reports on a meeting on 22 October with Strömstad's high school principal Sara Arvenstam.*

***Economist John Fletcher*** *continues his article series with the theme "What Happens to Our Welfare?" This time the theme is "Why do some survive while others succumb?"*

***Historian KG Hammarlund*** *has written a comment on economist John Fletcher's previous articles in the newsletter under the theme "What happens to our welfare?" He wants to defend the "shock protection society".*

***Psychiatrist Lennart Wetterberg*** *writes about how odor tests can be used in connection with the diagnosis and control of covid 19. One question concerns the use of corona dogs that are applied in Finland.*

***Business economist Rune Wigblad*** *gave a lecture for Rotary Poseidon Gothenburg on 12 October on the topic "Många svenskar är blinda för viktiga teknikgenombrott" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxZIHfBM6Yc He has also published an article in Ny Teknik on 28 October where he argues for magnetic streetcars instead of trams across the Göta River in Gothenburg. https://www.nyteknik.se/opinion/satsa-pa-magnetvagnar-i-stallet-for-sparvagnar-over-alven-i-goteborg-7003937*

***Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist*** *is responsible for the Academy's video series.*

***The elected new Vice-Chancellor for 2021 and Information System Scientist*** *Per Flensburg is responsible for the Academy's Free Series.*

*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:*

*lars.broman@stromstadakademi.se*

*I wish new contributions to the November issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 26 November 2020: 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 Stromstadiensis AAS, and the new virtual series to the e-mail address:*

*gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com*

## Vice-Chancellor's report

*Dear Fellows and Strömstad Academy sympathizers, on 1 January 2021, Per Flensburg will take over as Vice-Chancellor, but during the fall, I gradually hand over tasks I have taken care of to him. However, last week on 16 October, I was in Strömstad again and got one more chance to have a look at the Academy's new office. It is situated on the first floor, left of the large wooden entrance door and next to a meeting room called Konstapel Boman. Any Academy Fellow is welcome to use our office, for a shorter or longer time!*

*Our Extraordinary Annual Meeting on 17 October took place both IRL in Father's Room in Strömstad City Hall and on the net via GoToMeeting. Myself I attended IRL. We also had a Board Meeting 16-17 October and before the Friday meeting, Peter Fritzell, Per Flensburg and I had an important and interesting meeting with the Director of the City of Strömstad Mats Brocker.*

*Mats told us that the psychology within City of Strömstad has changed considerably during the last three months regarding how the City will collaborate with the Academy – in a positive direction. A result of the meeting is that we will receive a letter with*

*wishes regarding which useful competences there might be among the Academy's Fellows. The City now plans for a trinity city – education/researchers – entrepreneurs. Finally, we also mentioned the Agreement between the City and the Academy that we undersigned three years ago so now it is time for revision. Mats will provide us with a suggestion/draft for a revised agreement.*

### *Strömstad Academy and Politics*

*According to our Bylaws, Strömstad Academy is a Nordic Institute for Advanced Studies that manages research and research supervision. Furthermore, the Academy's purpose is to be an academic residence for university graduates engaged in research, education and information, and shall promote collaboration between Fellows as well as between Fellows and the surrounding society, especially the City of Strömstad.*

*Obviously, the Academy is not engaged in party politics. But, maybe we ought to? Right now when an election of a new President of the USA is coming up, several normally non-political scientific journals have expressed that they want Joe Biden to win the election; including Scientific American and Nature. Their argument is that Donald Trump acts opposite science. As a scientist, I fully agree! But what about Strömstad Academy and Swedish party politics? When a political party denies the scientific view on human impact on climate change, couldn't the Academy pronounce itself against that party? Or, when a political party agrees on human impact, but favors lowered car fuel taxes and will take away taxes on air travel?*

*Your views on this would be appreciated!*

## The Chairman's report

*October has been a busy and creative month. AU has met almost every week, and the Board had a meeting Friday-Saturday 16-17/10. The extraordinary Annual Meeting was held on 17/10 in the Strömstad City Hall, Father's Room, with parallel virtual participation by several members. We have also had a meeting with representatives from the Strömstad municipality, where they are all very interested in an in-depth collaboration with the Academy. I refer to the Vice-Chancellor's report for further information.*

*The minutes from the last Board meeting and the extraordinary Annual Meeting are currently being adjusted and will be made available via the Website as soon as this has been completed.*

*Several motions were discussed at the extraordinary Annual Meeting (I refer here to the forthcoming adjusted record). In general, a lot of constructive activities is now going on in the Academy. For example, the offer of a webinar online is discussed with a range of topics that may interest different target groups. The Gothenburg Local Chapter has taken this initiative seriously and in collaboration with Rotary has, among other things, presented a remarkably interesting webinar on technology, presented by Rune Wigblad. All members of the Academy can attend these meetings and I highly recommend it! The invitation is sent out regularly by the Gothenburg Local Chapter. My hope is that Strömstad Academy builds a platform through its Local Chapters where various topics/themes are presented and discussed, and where the public has access. It is in line with the current time, and it can be a success factor for Strömstad Academy according to my judgement.*

*On 1 October, the elected trustees held their second meeting regarding interdisciplinary collaborations, and the ongoing projects were consolidated. This is what it looks like today, and all interested parties are invited to contact the respective person in charge of each group if they want to participate;*

*I. Project around solar cells. Rune Wigblad convener*
*II. Project focusing on psychiatry and*

*alcohol/drug addiction - sub-goal # 3 in Agenda 2030. Marylou Wadenberg convener.*
*III. Project Interdisciplinary research with ethics as a connecting subject. Carl Olivestam conveners. The project is now in a consolidating phase. Carl Olivestam has found a partner outside SA. Christina Hultman's participation takes place when she herself has the opportunity. The project has thus ended the search for more researchers. Research description is currently being developed. An application for a research fund with the right profile has been traced. More information will be provided once the project has been formally registered.*

*Several other projects are under discussion, and I encourage all members of the Academy to participate.*

*An acting Deputy Chairman, Bode Janzon, has been elected pending Christina Hultman's recovery, and Per Flensburg has received a back-up for work needed on the Website as Carina Blom, previously assisting with the accounting, accepted the assignment. Carina is familiar with website constructions.*

*Finally, I want again to send all my best wishes to Christina, and at the same time hope that all of you members are well!*

*Peter*

## What happens to our welfare? John Fletcher

***Why do some survive while others succumb?***

*" **Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms —to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way**."*

*Viktor E. Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning.*

*Aaron Antonovsky has done a lot of work in this field. He was a Professor of medical sociology at the Ben Gurion University in Israel. Working on a totally different subject, he asked a number of randomly selected women how they looked at their own life situation and health. He also asked them whether they had been in a German concentration camp during the war (remember, this happend in the 70's).*

*More than 50% of the women who had escaped being put in a camp said that they felt OK, while barely a third of the former camp detainees said the same thing. Antonovsky's spontaneous reaction was:*

*"**Well, there you can see the effect of their imprisonment, far fewer feel OK!**"*

*Then his perspective changed:*

*"**Almost every third former camp inmate actually feels OK! They have been in concentration camps, refugees after the war, emigrated to Israel and lived through a further three wars – and in spite of all this, they feel OK! How can they feel OK?**"*

*Instead of asking: "**Why is X ill and how can we cure X?**", Antonovsky askea"**Why is Y feeling well, and how can we support Y's feeling?**" He tried to understand what it is that makes individuals handle the difficulties that life hands them differently, that some thrive, while others succumb. He developed the concept '**sense of coherence**'. We hum1'. We need to feel that we have the ability to '**handle**' what happens to us. And we need to see that life's challenges are worth the trouble, that life is '**meaningful**'.*

*If this is true, what happens with people when they experience life as incomprehensible, impossible to handle and without meaning – and what would put them in that situation?*

*Meaningfulness is a new concept for many. The poor farmer who lived at subsistence minimum thought only about his own and his family's survival. Freedom of choice did not exist. Development was an unknown*

*word. Life was static – apart from the fact that everybody aged. Today, half of the global population live in nations where the GDP per capita exceeds SEK 100.000. The freedom to make your own choices in life has increased dramatically. Only then meaningfulness becomes a relevant word. The content of 'meaningful' is decided by each individual person.*

*The great majority still lived close to a subsistence minimum when the European welfare state was being built. Many of the political and trade union organizations who participated in this process believed in a socialism where the individual was seen as a product of the environment. They helped to create a balance of power in society which allowed millions of individuals to break free from poverty. To a great extent, this was done by legal means together with collective agreements in industry to build a shield around the individual, a shield against exploitation, poverty and life's calamities.*

*I am convinced that it is virtually impossible to 'be taken care of', 'protected against life's challenges' – and at the same time feel that life is meaningful – unless it is through rebellion. It is easy for the 'protected' person to become a victim, a victim to 'evil politicians', victim to 'greedy businessmen', victim to the difficulties of life, victim to the acts of others, victim. Victims find no meaning in life. This is one of the reasons behind growing ghettoes and growing numbers of young people seeking psychiatric help in Sweden.*

*To me, meaningfulness means that I have a goal which lies outside my own person, a goal which is defined, achievable and 'worth the effort'. This is how I would describe 'meaning'*

- *I am in control of my own life, able to choose my own goal and my own tools,*
- *I am needed by people around me, part of a broader consensus where others share my goals,*
- *I need to learn new things, the better to reach my goal.*

*The point is not that my goal is 'noble'. The point is that the goal gives me a compass in life, helps me to stay in charge.*

*Our politicians can help us regain meaning in our lives by talking with us about necessary changes. They can open doors for people to build their own economic safety nets to become less dependent upon the protective state, thus becoming more independent, more 'in charge'.*

*They can reduce the barriers that hinder people from finding their own creative solutions in the labor and residence markets. This calls for realistic conversations based on the tragic, constrained view of human nature which appears to be closest to the reality.*

*In short, they need to treat us as adults who are responsible for their own lives. The time has come to discuss how we can proceed in adaptation to reality.*

*What tools might we have?*

*John Fletcher*

## KG Hammarlund's comment

### *In defence of the shock protected society*

*KG Hammarlund*

*In his articles on welfare, published in the last six newsletters, John Fletcher formulates a neoliberal vision of a society populated by shock resistant citizens, separate from the shock protective society he sees around him, a society he believes makes us both victims and demand machines with the expectation that "someone else" will solve our problems.*

*It is a harsh description. It is not without points but it is also difficult to digest due to its lack of nuances.*

*Our society is shock-protective, of course. That is, so to speak, the point of a welfare society. Factors beyond your control, such*

*as illness or childhood upbringing conditions, should not be decisive for your life trajectory. That is why we in Sweden (similar to most other western countries) have a pension system, a health insurance system, subsidized healthcare, and a publicly funded education sector. All examples of shock protection, even if they do not always work perfectly. I do not know if John Fletcher believes that some of these elements of the welfare state that contributes to making us victims and machines of demand should be abolished and replaced by a system of individually purchased services?*

*Shock protection, in the form of preventive legislation that mandates or prohibits certain ative legislation can never be justified, and I personally have no problems with accepting the mandatory use of car seat belts, speed limits, or drunk driving legislation.*

*In newsletter no. 8, Fletcher writes about how the shock protected person focuses on what he calls life's balance sheet, while the shock resistant person instead attaches importance to life's income statement. As an economist he knows, of course, that the balance sheets and income statements are inextricably linked and that the picture you get by just looking at one of them is incomplete. Both are needed.*

*And what is needed, in my opinion, are precisely the questions of justice that the "balance of life" can raise. Justice is a concept that can and should be made the subject of serious analysis, not waved away by putting it in quotation marks or suggesting that those who want to discuss issues of justice (or injustice) prefer a system of sharing that gives everyone exactly the same amount. A possible starting point may be the philosopher John Rawls and his concept of the "veil of ignorance". Rawls' idea is that if people were to negotiate a social contract without knowing anything about their position in this society (social class, political values, religious affiliation, psychological inclinations, etc.), rational individuals would agree on two basic principles:*

***The principle of freedom**: every citizen of a society shall be granted such comprehensive fundamental freedoms and rights as are compatible with the granting of the same freedoms and rights to all others, and*

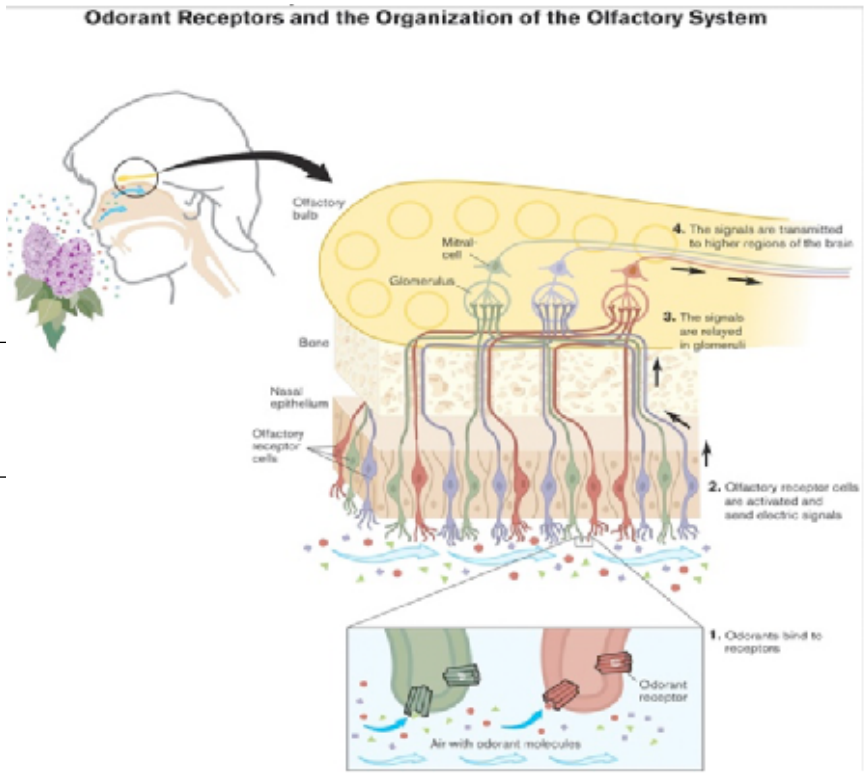
*T**he principle of difference:** differences in income and other basic goods must be arranged so that the assets of the most disadvantaged are maximized.*

*Such a society would then also be perceived as fair and just. A kind of variant of Kant's categorical imperative. And an argument that the added value created in a company should not of course go to the business owner alone. All the more so as the business owner alone rarely creates this added value: when John Fletcher writes that "the entrepreneur through his good ideas and hard work has created something that others are willing to pay more than the production cost for", he forgets that the entrepreneur (as long as it is not about a sole proprietorship without employees) was not alone in putting down the hard work. Without the employees, whose wages are hidden in the production cost, there would be no product to sell.*

*The idea of a shock protective society has been part of human thought for millennia. It is behind the Book of Genesis account of Cain's question "Shall I take care of my brother?" and the Gospel of Luke account of the Good Samaritan. It is found in John Donne's words "No man is an island all by itself", with the continuation "any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee". It is present in the writings of Immanuel Kant and John Stuart Mill. It is even argued by the political scientist and Timbro employee Anders Johansson Heinö, who in an op-ed article in Dagens Nyheter (Oct.14 2020), writes of what Fletcher calls life's balance sheet: "An unjustifiably large proportion of inequality – globally, nationally, locally – is due to factors beyond the control of the individual. We do not choose*

*our parents, we do not choose our growing up conditions, we do not choose our abilities, we do not choose the conditions under which we make life-changing deci-sions."*

*KG Hammarlund*




## Lennart Wetterberg: Olfaction

***Disclaimer**: Early rele-ased Abstract in English is not considered as final version due to new rapid research results about COVID-19 up to January 1, 2021.*

***Summary in English***

*1. 2004 Nobel Prize in Medicine went to Linda B Buck and Richard Axel for their work on "odor receptors and the orga-nization of the olfactory system" -- the sense of smell.*

*The olfactory system is important for our quality of life. A unique odor can trigger distinct memories from our childhood or from emotional moments later in life. When some-thing tastes good it is mainly due to activation of the olfactory system. To lose the sense of smell is a significant handicap; we no longer perceive the different qualities of food and we cannot detect warning signals, for example smoke from a fire. The sense of smell long remained enigmatic. The basic principles for recog-nizing and remembering about 10,000 different odors were not understood. The 2004 Nobel Laureates in Physiology or Medicine clarified how our olfactory system works. They discovered a large gene family of some 1,000 genes that give rise to many olfactory receptor types. These receptors detect the inhaled odor molecules.*

*2. Near-infrared light absorption of the olfactory centers in the brain after being exposed to a scent shows increases in oxygen in a healthy person.*

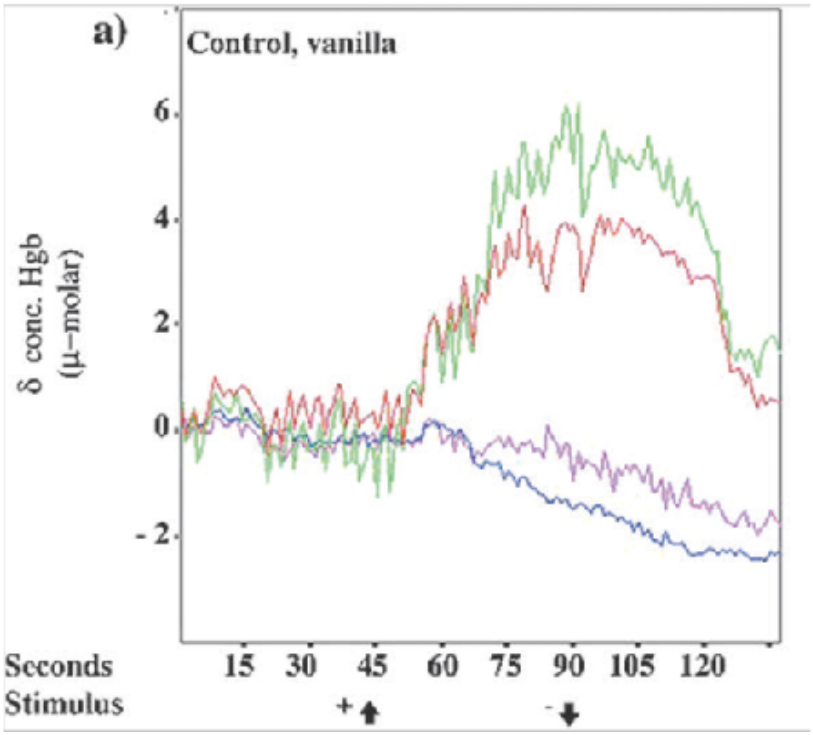
*The near-infrared light spectroscopy method measures changes in the tissue concen-tration of oxygenated ([O2Hb]) and de-oxygenated ([HHb]) hemoglobin, expressed in micromolar units. The basic principles of NIRS activation is provided by an emission optode and detected by a recipient optode. Each pair of optodes are placed in a special holder over the temporal pole and superior temporal gyrus positioned symetrically on each side of the skull. A line through the optodes crossed the orbitomeatal line with a frontally open angle of 100°. This location illuminates the temporal pole and the superior gyrus of the temporal lobe. The method is further explained in a YouTube film by Brain Support Corporation:*

*https://*

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqOoCCCtOJ0

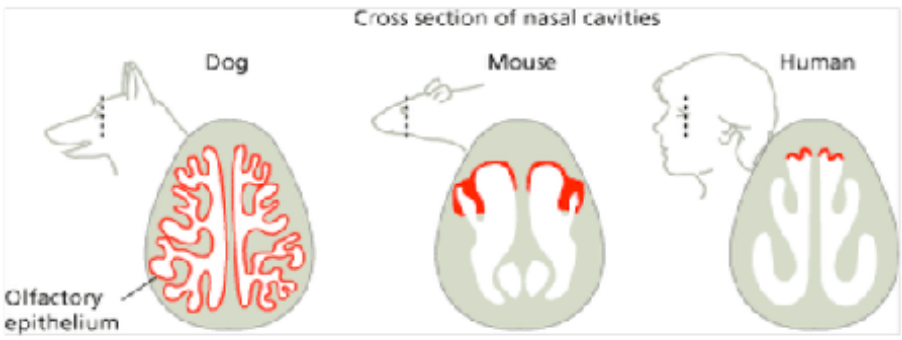
*Scent detection dogs sniff COVID-19 in 10 seconds, which can´t be done by other methods. Dogs are available even where virus and antibody tests are rare or lacking.*

*Scent is arguably a dog's most important sense. Ongoing research is part of an international effort to train sniffer dogs to rapidly screen people for COVID-19. The training methods are similar to those used with dogs trained to detect drugs or explosives. The canines are rewarded with positive reinforcement when they pick a person with COVID-19's sweat sample. Studies show*




*Not all dogs are equal sniffers. Dogs with long nose are more sensitive sniffers than those of brachycephalic dog breeds.*

*Lennart Wetterberg*

Foto by permission of Susanna Paavilainen, University of Helsinki, Finland

*that dogs trained in this way are able to identify people who are infected with the coronavirus even before they develop symptoms. The mole-cular substances in sweat that dogs react to at COVID-19 are so far unknown. A scheme with sniffer dogs at Helsinki airport indicated that dogs can detect the presence of COVID-19 in less than 10 seconds with nearly 100% accuracy.*