STRÖMSTAD ACADEMY
Nordic institute for advanced studies

News Forum
Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

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Editor's cornerEditor´s corner Anders Gustavsson

After consultation with Strömstad Academy's working committee on 11 April, the editor has decided to change the title of the previous Newsletter to: News Forum of Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy.

Educator and Chairman of the Board Åsa Morberg informs about current events in Strömstad Academy.

Vice-Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg informs about current events in Strömstad Academy. He informs about the next Science Festival in Strömstad on 22-25 May.

Teacher educator and education scientist Carl E. Olivestam discusses changes proposed by the government that relate to schools and teacher training.

Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist reviews a war history thesis on the threat from Russia.

Linguistics Jens Allwood arranged an interdisciplinary methodological seminar on Marston Hill in Mullsjö on 28-29 April.

Ethnologist and pro-rector Anders Gustavsson participated in a radio program with P4Väst on 6 April about Norwegian youth's Maundy Thursday celebrations in Strömstad. He was also interviewed about this theme in the newspapers Bohusläningen and Strömstads Tidning on 6 April.

Ethnologist Sveza Daceva Filipova, who lived in Sweden for 40 years, was interviewed in Strömstads Tidning on 8 April about her life in Strömstad with a developmentally disabled daughter and her frequent trips to a large family in Bulgaria.

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson
Layout: Per Flensburg

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 May issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 27 May 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

Åsa Morberg: Chairman's report

First of all, I would like to wish you a really happy and pleasant Valborg Bonfire evening. The first of May is also a public holiday. Now spring is here and worth celebrating in every way. In May, May 22 through May 25, we will see you at the Science Festival as well. It is the highlight of the year for Strömstad Academy. Web meetings in all their glory, but the physical meetings are something else. We are all looking forward to a pleasant and inspiring Science Festival in Strömstad again.

In April we had an AU meeting on 2023-04-11. Sten Philipson and Marylou Wadenberg participated in AU's meeting and presented a proposal that will also be a motion to the Board. The proposal is about the purpose of Strömstad Academy. It is an issue that needs to be discussed continuously. We have continuously discussed what the purpose of Strömstad Academy is since the Academy was established. But we should still keep that discussion alive. The written proposal is a very good contribution to keeping a conversation alive about the Academy's purpose. It is encouraging for member recruitment to discuss what you can get out of your membership in Strömstad Academy. That we are members for different reasons is completely in order.

My report also includes a discussion reproduced from the working committee (AU). A working committee is a preparatory body for the board. The AU meeting had several points, but one important point, review of the by-laws/statutes, took up almost the entire meeting time. The Vice-Chancellor, Chairman and Treasurer have proposed changes to the statutes. When I took over as Chairman, I thought I had received an incorrect copy of the by-laws for Strömstad Academy. The copy that I received was from 2017 and it did not agree with the activities conducted in the Academy. The Vice-Chancellor, Chairman and Treasurer have now quickly outlined a proposal for changes which are partly adaptation to the business being carried out, and partly involve substantial simplifications. The previous statute and the current proposal are parallel in the same document so that one can easily and simply see which changes are proposed in comparison with the current older statute. Statutes changes are of course decided on by the Annual Meeting, but having such outdated statutes is absolutely not compatible with good association practice. It is also impossible to work according to. those The statutes amendment proposal has been passed with former chairman Peter Fritzell. It is not possible to elaborate on all the proposed changes, but the statutes are sent out well ahead of time to the Annual Meeting together with all other documents. The statutes are also reviewed by the Board. The Annual Meeting takes place on 2023-05-23 at 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. with Sven Moosberg as mee-

ting chairman. We look forward to that. The annual meetings with Sven Moosberg as chairman have been a pleasure to attend.

Our ethics policy is ready and has been sent to the Board. It first needs to be decided on at the Annual Meeting. We will also elect an Ethics Council. The Nominating Committee may propose four members for the Ethics Council. Our working/preparatory group has consisted of Peter Währborg, Peter Borenstein, Sten Philipson and Marylou Wadenberg. Peter Borenstein is the Convener of the Nominating Committee, but Sveza Filipova is also part of the Nominating Committee and can propose members for the Council without conflict of interest.

In the businesses for which I have been chairman, the matters to be taken up by the board have always been dealt with by working committees and then the chairman has formulated proposals for the board. It's not a strange order, but that's how it usually works. As Chairman, however, I have not experienced such an exuberant and almost undisciplined communication that has been going on in our Board since I took office. The communication pattern is really problematic for a non-profit association and its operations.

The members of the Board may receive all kinds of e-mails, whether the members want it or not. The senders also create their own mailing lists and add or subtract members as they see fit. Communication can absolutely not continue this way. A fundamental problem is, of course, that there is no easy and good way for an ordinary member to communicate with others. The only forum available seems to be the e-mail list to the Board? Our Vice-Chancellor has commendably created a Discussion forum, but it doesn't seem to work, and not all members are on Facebook? With the help of discussion fora we could create a different communication pattern. It would of course work with Facebook as well.

Working democratically in a board so that members can make their voices heard is an important quality issue, but there is no way to do it this way. When there is an email to the members of the board, I as chairman do not know if it is a first attempt at motions, interpellations or just general complaints. The chairman is responsible for the agenda for board meetings, not individual members, and the agenda is always discussed in the working committee before it goes to the board. It is common practice. The Working Committee prepares matters for the Board. This discussion is not about hushing things up. It is about establishing communication in our Board and trying to communicate in accordance with good association etiquette. I have been told about this by other members and this is an important work environment issue. There will also be a letter to the Board from a member.

In the documents for the board meeting, we have an operational plan that is shared by the Board and the Academy. Even though we have a Vice-Chancellor for the Academy and a Chairman for the Board, this still means that we have to work closely together. It is quite obvious. Per Flensburg and myself and our treasurer John Fletcher have a very good collaboration. It is actually one and the same business, Strömstad Academy, even though we have different areas of responsibility. What are the concrete results of our efforts? Yes, we have, for example, a joint business plan.

Collaboration is an absolute must in our Academy. By working together, we get further. Collaboration takes time, but returns many times over.

Per Flensburg: Vice-Chancellor's report

Åsa Morberg and I are preparing a business plan for the academic year 23/24. We would very much like to have input on its content from the members of the Academy. The business plan is an overview of the activities Strömstad Academy (SA) is planning for the business year 23/24. During this year, the activities are concentrated on research, project work and written production. In this way, several members can become active. Most of the activities take place in project groups and local chapters, which are largely self-governing. You shouldn't need the Board's permission to do something, as many seem to think. Only, matters that concern the Academy as a whole and activities that require the Academy to pay must be brought to the Board. One can imagine that each local chapter is allocated a certain amount that they can dispose of themselves. This way, the need for administration and bureaucracy is reduced. The chapters, and also the projects, should have their own websites that are easy to maintain. Therefore, we should change to a web hotel that give us greater control over the domain and have the option of designing simple websites.

As for webinars, there is currently a lot of activity, mainly from the western chapter. Other chapters should also activate themselves, not least with internal lecturers.

The Editorial Board will play an increasingly important role in quality assurance of our publications. Clear assessment criteria must be drawn up so that the review can take place in the same way as for scientific journals. Of particular note are the different practices found in different subjects.

The possibility of issuing a periodical publication will be investigated. It is proposed to be interdisciplinary and each issue will be a themed issue where the theme is announced well ahead of time. It is possible to publish such a journal on KB's page for open access journals: https://publicera.kb.se/

The following new activities are planned

1. Establishment of a PR team for marketing
2. Ministerial courtship to partly inform about us, partly to get permanent grants
3. Change of web hosting, which preferably takes place during the summer
4. Membership meetings arranged by local chapters, especially those that have not been particularly active
5. "Nobel party" at the high school in Strömstad in December
6. Try to establish cooperation with an existing university, for example for publication in DiVA
7. Seek funding to establish an office
8. Publish at least 2 books
9. Quality assurance of operations
10. Try to establish an interdisciplinary journal

In addition, the ongoing activities continue:

- Board meetings according to calendar
- AU meetings according to calendar
- Working meetings with working groups and project meetings of various kinds. Determined on an ad-hoc basis
- Webinars approximately every 14 days, preferably on the same day of the week.
- Columns in Strömstads Tidning: Once per month. Mariana Back in charge
- Lectures at the Bohuslän museum. Bode Janzon in charge
- Collaboration with the museum in Strömstad. Anders Gustavsson in charge

- Collaboration with the high school in Strömstad. Per Flensburg and Sveza agree.
- Planning of the Science Festival 2024
- Conduct recruitment campaigns, for example through the personnel associations for employees who have retired

An important thing we should focus on is marketing with the aim of making the Academy known. We should be associated with interesting projects, ideas and publications. We should be visible in the mass media and we should be associated with quality (scientific quality) and originality. This way we can recruit more members.

The more members, the greater weight we get in the societal debate and the better society we get. Our strengths are broad competence and experience and this must be constantly highlighted and emphasized.

Many members believe that there is too much administration in the Academy. Here is a pedagogical problem because administration is necessary and for us to receive external grants it must be documented. But our processes must be natural not leading to unnecessary strain. One should not constantly ask for permission. We are adults, we have experience and we have knowledge. Therefore, we can trust each other.

Program for the Science Festival May 2023

It is time to register your participation. You arrange all lunches yourself. The party dinner at Laholmen is paid for on the spot, but register participation when paying,

The municipality, the church and the Academy sponsor us so the conference fee can be kept at SEK 300 this year as well.

Time	Activity	Place, participating
Monday 22		**Fars sal**
14:00 – 14:30	Inauguration and funeral oration	Fars sal, Per m fl
14:30 – 15:00	Methods anthology	Jens Allwood
15:00 – 15:30	Metal exposure from dental materials redistributes zinc in blood cells	Ulf Lindh
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee	Guldtuppen
16:00 – 16:30	Rune's and Per Staffan's project	Per Staffan Boström, Rune Wigblad
16:30 – 17:00	The first mathematics textbooks	Alfred Holl
17:00 – 17:30	ISES Online Museum on Solar Energy.	Lars Broman
17:30 – 18:00	A quest for cognition (Webinar)	Elaine Bearer
Tuesday 23		**Fars sal**
09:00 – 9:30	Light, rhythms and blues 2023 (video)	Lennart Wetterberg
9:30 – 10:00	Right and left in the drug and pharmaceutical world	Ulf Berg
10:00 – 10:30	New project: Power structures	Anders Gustavsson
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee	Guldtuppen
11:00 – 11:30	The roles we play in the theater of life	Gudrun Olsson
11:30 – 12:00	Research communication	Bengt Johannisson

12:00 – 12:30	Sanctions against Iran	Rune Wigblad
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:00	Annual meeting	
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee	Guldtuppen
15:30 – 17:00	Annual meeting, cont. and development of the academy	
19:00 – 21:00	Concert with the Rilke Ensemble	**The church**
Wednesday 24		**Skagerack**
09:00 – 9:30	School matters	Åsa Morberg
9:30 – 10:00	Teacher education - the universities' play-house subject to the government's recon-struction plans	Carl Olivestam
10:00 – 10:30	The countryside as a life choice. Life tra-jectories in emigration settlements on Orust during the beginning of the 20th century.	Bode Janzon
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee	
11:00 – 11:20	The world is overpopulated, and since we have a common world, Sweden is also overpopulated and should do something about it	Dag Lindgren
11:20 – 11:40	Dangerous distraction or elephant in the room? The role of population growth during three decades of increasing carbon emis-	Lucia Tamburino
11:40 – 12:00	Population: Why are we so pessimistic?	John Fletcher
12:00 – 12:30	Panel debate on population	Lars Broman moderator
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:00	One earth for all	Anders Wijkman
15:00 – 15:30	Covid-19	Anders Gustavsson
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee	
16:00 – 17:00	Installation of new members	Per Flensburg, Anders Gustavsson
17:00 – 18:30	Mingle	
19:00 – 22:30	Party dinner 3 courses SEK 545	**Laholmen**
Thursday 25		**Skagerack**
09:00 – 9:30	Immigration and culture	Jens Allwood
9:30 – 10:00	Immigration and culture	Cenab Turunc
10:00 – 10:30	Immigration and culture, gang crime	Per Flensburg
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee	
11:00 – 11:30	Panel debate immigration and culture (pos-sibly)	
11:30 – 12:00	Physical touch - a pedagogical dilemma in the school subject Sports and health	Marie Öhman
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 13:30	Brainstorming, new projects	
13:30 – 14:00	Evaluation	

Carl Olivestam: Time to act

The Tidö Agreement shows that it is time for us to act

Carl Olivestam, Teacher trainer and Educational Scientist

A new government and new projects regarding teacher training and school based on intentions in the so called Tidö Agreement. On January 20, 2023, the government published an account on how it spent its first 100 days in office.

What I want to concentrate on are the specified points of change for schools and teacher training.

Teacher training receives extra attention.

1. The education should have an increased focus on subject knowledge instead of within the current education in project form learn how to plan, implement, lead and evaluate projects including preparing for higher academic studies.
2. Demands are now being made for the introduction of cognitive science (an interdisciplinary field that connects neuroscience, psychology, computer science, philosophy, linguistics/linguistic science). This is in line with the Education Act from 2010, which requires that all teaching must rest on a current scientific basis. Time to question, based on current scientific progress, the current established pedagogical theories that were added a hundred years ago.
3. The practical methodology gets its renaissance at the expense of the theoretically oriented didactics that replaced the practically oriented methodology when the universities took over teacher training in 1977. This investment is reinforced by reintroducing training schools that existed before academization.

Gudmund Bergqvist: Book Review

Book Review: Oscar Jonsson: The threat from Russia. Mondial 2023

Gudmund Bergqvist

Oscar Johnsson has a PhD in military history from King's College in London. He is a researcher at the Swedish Defense University.

The book contains history in the present and extends until the winter of 2023 i.e. is completely current. It is easy to read despite being very factual and containing a lot of facts. Why didn't we see the Ukraine war coming? How does Russia perceive the West as a threat?

As a background to the current situation, Putin's career is described and how a small very loyal group around him rules. The Russian leadership's priority is regime survival at all costs, stressing on Russia's role as a great power and its dissatisfaction with the current world order!

The relationship between Russia and Sweden is also discussed.

Sweden's commitment to human rights, democracy, etc. as well as the Eastern Partnership project are considered by the Russian regime as clearly hostile and Sweden, together with the Baltic countries and Poland, are considered to be the most hostile to Russia.

The military threat from Russia is partly a strategic deterrent, but is also real, despite that Russia now is fully committed to Ukraine, Military threat is often used as a foreign policy instru-

ment. Various methods are also used to influence Sweden domestically through various influence actions. Cyber threats and actions are other means, for example. denigrating actions against persons considered enemies of Russia. Here the campaign against Martin Kragh is exemplified. In all these actions carried out by various agents within, it is backed by the Russian state.

Unfortunately, scattered Swedish voices have caught on, which shows how skilled the Russian desinformers are. Russia is also using the economy as a weapon. This through the use of gas and oil as a means of exerting pressure, but also through massive money laundering. This is a prerequisite for financing lobbyists, political institutions and parties for future use.

The war in Ukraine is described, as well as the large number of Russian soldiers who have died or been wounded and how Russia is trying to win through depth and quantity completely without regard to the human losses, but he wonders how long it can go on.

Russia's post-Putin future is discussed and reference is made to the various waves of rapprochement and removal from the West that have been going on for centuries. He considers the possibility of revolution to be small. The regime has for decades built up large organizations against this. Russia will be a considerable power regardless of who governs it.

The basis of Sweden's defense must be to understand Russia's capabilities and strategy. The Ukraine war has shown how essential a people's will to defend itself is. Surveys show that a large part of Sweden's population is willing to defend themselves in different ways, which is hopeful. We must realistically respond forcefully to the various threats to our country, Europe and the democratic world. Democracy must defend itself!

In summary, despite a lot of facts, an easy-to-read book on an unfortunately very current topic.

Read it.

Gunnar Windahl dead

Gunnar Windahl 1938-2023

One of Strömstad Academy's very earliest members passed away on 24 April after having been ill for a while. Gunnar was extremely important during the early build-up of our Academy. He was Assistant Professor and for a while Pro-rector. He was Editor or Co-editor for several of our early anthologies AAS-1, 2, 26 and the author of a couble of issues AAS-8, 38. He was interviewed in one of our videos, "Gunnar Windahl Disqualifies Psycho Therapy" SAV-4. He participated actively in most Academic Festivals and he took part of representing us on University West's Academic Festivals.

We have warm memories of Gunnar and miss him so much.

Gunnar will be buried on 19 May and if you want to participate you can contact me at lars.broman@stromstadakademi.se.

Lars Broman

Method anthology seminar at Marston Hill

Here are some pictures from this seminar and from Marston Hill.

Entrance

Inside meeting room

Outside meeting room

Sleeping room