STRÖMSTAD ACADEMY
Nordic institute for advanced studies

News Forum
Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

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Editor's corner Anders Gustavsson

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Educator and Chairman of the Board Åsa Morberg informs about news within Strömstad Academy.

Vice-Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg informs about news within Strömstad Academy.

Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist draws attention to the recently deceased **psychologist Gunnar Windahl** and his compilation of articles in the Free Series no. 16.

Chemists Man Singh and Sunita Singh have published the book *The Chemistry of Friccohesity for Industrial Nanoformulations* https://www.cambridgescholars.com/product/978-1-5275-9363-3.

Linguistics Elisabeth Ahlsén has written a report from the Science Festival in Strömstad on 22-25 May.

Ethnologist and pro-rector Anders Gustavsson was promoted on 26 May to jubilant doctorate at Lund University.

On 6 June 7.00 pm **neuroscientist Elaine Bearer** will give a lecture online about "A quest for cognition". Meeting ID is 82507662800. Passcode 270728.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82507662800?pwd=L2piQUp5OG4zMjJLc01KT0pjV2dqZz09

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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 June issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 26 June 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

Report from the Chairman for the month of May

by Åsa Morberg, Chairman

About the new methods anthology: Great job! We need to help marketing the anthology.

It is very gratifying that we once again have an anthology coming out. Well done, I want to directly say this to Jens Allwood who is the editor and has a group of co-authors, as follows: Elisabeth Ahlsén, Leif Bloch-Rasmussen, Per Flensburg, KG Hammarlund, Ulf Persson, Claes Uggla, Anders Gustavsson and Peter Währborg. We hope this anthology will sell better than other anthologies have done. The subject area is extremely exciting and should be very useful for researchers as well as in postgraduate education.

Now we have nevertheless made a decision so that the anthology can be published. So far all is well and good. Very good work has been done, as I would like to underline, but of course it remains to promote the anthology. How should this be done in the best way? Many co-authors surely have great ideas!

It is important to think about how many people might be interested in reading the method anthology at all? There is a very good report on how many research graduates Sweden needs? Exchange of experience and discussion about the change in the number of doctoral students over time and society's needs. Conference materials on 30 November 2017 (UKÄ, 2017)

Over the past twenty years, the number of new postgraduate students in higher education has varied between 3,000 and just under 4,000. In recent years, the number of new postgraduate students has decreased, including in 2016. The total number of doctoral students has varied between 16,600 and 20,000 since 1996 .

The scope of postgraduate education has therefore not generally increased during the last two decades. At the same time, the number of doctoral degrees has almost doubled, but the increase mainly took place between 1996 and 2008. This is partly an effect of the doctoral education reform in 1998, which led to demands for an orderly provision for doctoral students and which thus actually led to increased throughput.

Postgraduate education is available at universities, but also at colleges assigned to scientific fields. The nature of the anthology is interdisciplinary with a total of eight disciplines and it can fit into these subject orientations. The layout and content of the book is apparently unique, as far as I can tell. But it is important to make the book known, of course. There are hopefully good reviewers who can help writing some reviews. I usually try to get a handful. Magazines that reach many are a University magazine, SULF newspaper, DN and SVD,

The 2024 Book Fair is another excellent way to promote books. A release party at the book fair would be very good, but it has to be next year. Joint arrangements with other exhibitors result in lower costs. Västra Götaland Region may be in place next year, possibly also Strömstad municipality. A seminar or lecture at the book fair is also a good way of marketing, and then you have to book the lecture hall well in advance. "Boktugg", a site that I enjoy, can also be used to promote the anthology. I am not a co-author in the anthology, but I can be helpful with efforts in marketing, as can many, many others in the Academy.

The local chapters can, for example, organize open seminars about the book with the support of the editor and author. Inviting nearby universities is a good idea. In conclusion, I once again thank the editor and the writers for a job well done!

Duration and timing of the science festival in 2023

The Science Festival has taken place. Per Flensburg, Vice-Chancellor, and Anders Gustavsson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, have done a fine job with the Science Festival - Strömstad Academy's highlight. We have a commitment to follow up the timing of the Science Festival because we had the Science Festival about a month earlier than usual. For those of us who come from far away, it's nice to be home in time for midsummer. At the same time, we must closely monitor the Science Festival, not least in terms of the number of participants. We will find out if the placement in time affected the number of participants?

I have also thought about the number of days for the Science Festival. When I was president of ATEE in Brussels, we reduced our conferences from one week to three days. This resulted in several participants and we actually still managed to maintain quality. It was not only our own organization that reduced the number of conference days. There were several large organizations that reduced the number of days in their annual conferences.

It would be worth a discussion about the length of the conference, I think. It is also about costs. The longer the conference, the more expensive the conference. Both travel and accommodation are expensive. Maybe we can at least think about how to proceed? We must make well-thought-out decisions.

When planning for inspiring conference days with vibrant resort life and cultural experiences, we have to think about how long we can be away and how much money we are willing to invest. We naturally strive to have fruitful science festivals that benefit the development of academia. We should address this at the earliest possible opportunity.

The local chapters are a hub in Strömstad Academy. What will happen after the Science Festival? How can the local chapters inspire each other?

The local chapters are important in Strömstad Academy. Right now, Strömstad Academy has the following active local chapters: Södra local chapter with Bodil Frisdal, Gothenburg local chapter with Jens Allwood, Strömstad local chapter with Sveza Filipova, Falu local chapter with John Fletcher, and Stockholm local chapter under construction with Marylou Wadenberg assisted by Sten Philipson. We also have the international local chapter in Strömstad Academy.

The local chapters are very important to Strömstad Academy. This is where the members can find improved contact with each other. The local chapters work differently and that is perfectly fine. Active local chapters can also, with a good activity, provide an increase in the recruitment of new members.

The local chapters decide independently what they want to present to the rest of the Academy. The local chapters' function, purpose, goals, content and working methods need to be discus-

sed and perhaps also updated and clarified. If the local chapters are to be a hub in Strömstad Academy, then a review is needed. An exchange of experiences between the local chapters is also needed. Sveza Filipova is the coordinator of the all local chapters, after Gudmund Bergqvist. I have contacted Sveza Filipova and asked her to arrange a webinar for the coordinators of the local chapters. We need to get in touch and follow up on the Science Festival.

The international chapter also needs to be made visible and highlighted. Strömstad Academy needs to think about how the Academy can make it easier for international colleagues to connect and be active within the Academy.

I wish all members of Strömstad Academy a really nice summer!

Per Flensburg: Vice-Chancellor's report

The festival is over for this time. The result of several months of hard work was 23 participants! There were a few people from Strömstad, but the hall was far from overcrowded. Nevertheless, the event was on the municipality's website, an advertisement was in Strömstad's newspaper and posters were put up. Both Anders Wijkman and Tomas Kåberger were mentioned. Moreover, the church was not even half full, although one of Europe's best choirs performed. This was deplorable. Something must be fundamentally wrong.

In return, the content was all the better. I have heard from many that there were very good talks this year and the concert was truly extraordinary. I was so caught up that when I was going to give my thank you speech, I had to gather myself and ramble a lot about who I was before I could get a decent thank you together. Personally, I thought there were many very interesting lectures, the speakers kept their times and eventually even took the microphone.

But what saddened me the most was the evaluation afterwards. Lasse fired off a solid salvo! Nothing was good! It was not like in his time. And that's right, everything can't be like it was in Lasse's time. Admittedly, Lasse was positive in his talk at the dinner and he also sent a text message in which he regretted not saying anything positive. But I was not happier.

However, Lasse was right about one thing: It was a different conference! Anders and I prioritize other things. For example. low cost. Lasse wanted to save SEK 300 on the membership fee, we saved SEK 1,200 on the conference fee, Anders and I thought that was more important. Everyone was given the freedom to, together with their new and old friends, calmly seek out their favorite place adapted to their taste and wallet instead of being crowded into an overcrowded restaurant and being forced to pay twice as much. I failed with the coffee at Skagerack the first morning because in my naivety I assumed that if it says on a sign that the café is open 09:00-15:30, then this is what applies. I would of course have called before and checked if this was indeed correct and would then have found out that the entire force was at the theater seeing Phantom of the Opera that particular morning.

By the way, Lasse is right about one more thing: I'm not good at organizing conferences! So with a warm hand, I delegate next year's science festival to someone else. Lasse can certainly give good advice! I refrain!

Speaking of resigning, I would like to announce right now that I am resigning from standing as Vice-Chancellor when my current term expires. It has nothing to do with the festival, but I'm tired of sitting 8 hours a day in front of the computer screen and answering emails, writing plans, policies, updating the website, posting reports and videos and making sure the format is correct, yeah, I don't know all. As I have said on some previous occasions: I feel like a secre-

tary, something I have absolutely no aptitude for because I am not at all as meticulous as one should be. Also, my wife wants to see me a little more often from the front and not from behind in front of a screen. But I can sit out the period. Of course, if someone wants to take over earlier, that's perfectly fine! I have other plans going on! Such as having a nice summer with all of you!

Report from the Science Festival 2023

Report from the Science Festival in Strömstad, May 22-25, 2023

Elisabeth Ahlsén

The participants gathered in Strömstad for the festival in Fars Sal in the Town Hall and "Skagerack" at the marina. The weather was mild and welcoming and there were a number of interesting talks and discussions. We also had a festive dinner at hotel Laholmen and an enjoyable concert with the Rilke ensemble and Thomas von Brömsen in Strömstad Church.

Many interesting contributions were presented, not least by new members. The program was, like the Academy, multidisciplinary and very informative. Some of the recurring themes this time were Energy, Over population and Migration.

The first day, Jens Allwood introduced the anthology "Vilken metod är bäst?" (Which method is the best?), which is in its finishing stage, and contains descriptions of methods by nine authors from different academic disciplines with subsequent interdisciplinary dialogs. He also suggested a new anthology about experiences of interdisciplinary research. Ulf Lindh presented the measurement of metals from tooth fillings in blood cells. Rune Wigblad called for a Swedish Technology Council, exemplifying with alternative approaches to nuclear and wind power, which are not discussed or evaluated publicly in Sweden. Alfred Holl provided a historical account of course books in mathematics in the Scandinavian and Nordic countries. Lars Broman returned to the theme of energy with a presentation of the museum of solar energy of ISES (International Solar Energy Society).

Tuesday started off with a videorecorded lecture by Lennart Wetterberg, the nestor of the Academy, about light and (circadian) rhythms, showing the size and complexity of this area of research. He ended by asking whether we should have summertime, wintertime or continue switching between the two, given the huge differences in rhythm between individuals.

We then listened to an interesting lesson in stereochemistry by Ulf Berg, i.e. how asymmetric mirroring molecules can give completely different effects in the world of drugs. Anders Gustavsson presented a proposal for a new anthology with the theme "The researcher (Research) and power structures at universities, departing from individual researchers' experiences of headwind and tailwind". The topic of Gudrun Olsson was roles we play in the theater of life, illustrated by personal doctoral disputation narratives. Bengt Johannisson spoke about entrepreneurship and the need for more internal dialog within universities between research, education and society and more external dialog with the surrounding society, globally, but especially locally. Head-hand-heart should be included, according to the speaker who used examples from his own experiences. Rune Wigblad returned with an account of the current development in Iran, especially concerning executions and the sanctions against Russia. The Annual Meeting was held and in the evening we listened to the concert.

The first session on Wednesday was devoted to two, partly related themes, the school and teachers' training as well as questions related to rural areas, historically and today. Åsa Morberg,

Carl Olivestam and Bode Jansson presented different pressing questions, for example the role of "byskolor" (village schools), living in rural areas and activities for achieving a new and more appropriate teacher education. After this followed a series of presentations about overpopulation – why it is a huge environmental problem and why the subject appears to be taboo for many organizations in the debate about environment (presentations by Dag Lindgren, Lucia Tamborino, John Fletcher and Gudmund Bergqvist (organized by Lars Broman, panel discussion moderator Jens Allwood).

The afternoon started off with lectures with an environmental theme by Anders Vijkman and the new honorary professor Thomas Kåberger. Then followed the "installation" of new members: Thomas Kåberger, Sven Moosberg, Dag Lindgren, Ulf Lind, Alfred Holl and Stig Ottosson., followed by mingling and dinner.

Thursday morning contained lectures on the theme of Migration by Jens Allwood, Elisabeth Ahlsén and Per Flensburg. Different aspects were addressed, like readiness for a continued large immigration, considering and use of positive aspects, the acceptance or non-acceptance in society of different degrees of multiculturalism, segregation-integration-assimilation, language loss and criminality. Finally, Stig Ottosson gave an informative overview of innovation processes.

The themes of this year, presentations and new members were of high quality which is inspiring for the future of the Academy. The evaluation session advocated more intensive marketing of next year's festival, and some more social activities for informal networking.

Gudmund Bergqvist: In memoriam Gunnar Windahl

Gunnar Windahl and his thoughts

Gudmund Bergqvist

One aspect of Gunnar's work at the Academy has been his recurring comments on various social phenomena in his monthly letters. They have been interesting, clever, detailed, well written and contained references! In their concentrating style, they give more thought and insight than many others. These relatively short articles, of which many are in English, are put together by him in a nearly 50-page anthology in the Free Series number 16.

It touches on topics such as climate change, liberalism and populism, political governance, the return of religion, social psychological concepts, fact resistance, etc. Those subjects are still relevant to discuss in our society.

Anders Gustavsson Jubilant Doctor

Ethnologist and pro-rector Anders Gustavsson was promoted on 26 May to jubilant doctorate at Lund University