



## 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. Flensburg provides instructions on how e-mail communication should be conducted in the future in Strömstad Academy.

**Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist** writes about drug prevention measures and the need for increased military aid to Ukraine.

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](mailto:per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se)

I wish new contributions to the April issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 26 April 2024: [anders.gustavsson@ikos.uio.no](mailto: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](mailto:peter@wahrborg.se), the video series SAV to: [gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com](mailto:gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com) and the Reprint Series and the Free Series to: [per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se](mailto:per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se)

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## Report from chairman and Vice-Chancellor

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### **March monthly report from Per Flensburg, Vice-Chancellor, and Åsa Morberg, Chairman of the Board**

Now we have reached the end of the month of March, 2024. The days are now longer than the nights and soon we will go to daylight saving time.

We have had a turbulent time in Strömstad Academy. An anthology caused disagreements among the authors. Disagreements among academics are by no means uncommon. But this problem had consequences. Members left the Board.

#### **Ethical policy - now we are taking a look at an ethical policy**

The ethical policy that a highly qualified working group drafted was voted down at the last year's annual meeting. The ethical principles must provide guidance and provide a basis and framework for ethical thinking and action. It is about following rules, norms, values and laws, but it is also as much about developing a personal and professional approach. We need an ethical policy because this is required when you apply for money from funds, where many of these require presentation of an ethical policy.

It has turned out that we need an ethical policy for other reasons as well. We see the need for a code of conduct.

#### **Communication in Strömstad Academy - we can't have it like this!**

We have asked Sten Philipsson, who filed a motion about communication earlier, to help us out in the working committee. We have a communication where the email-function "reply to all" is used far too frequently. If the email is about something completely different from what the subject says, it will be even more difficult to find what you are looking for later. Board members and others are affected by one email after another with subjects that are usually not Board matters. The emailing lists change and names that are absolutely not on the Board are on emailing lists. How they get there cannot be traced. Now this communication must change so that Strömstad Academy gets a well-functioning communication.

Chairman Åsa Morberg gets an email address for board matters. The address is [ordforande@stromstadakademi.se](mailto:ordforande@stromstadakademi.se) and only Board matters should be sent to it. Nothing else should be sent to that address. A board matter must be in the form of a document addressed to the Board. The content must be labeled and described and proposals for decisions must be included. We have decided that there will be no cases of the various e-mails that trickle into Åsa Morberg's e-mail.

We will launch a new discussion forum after Easter. Debates and all kinds of discussions must be held in that forum. There is an obvious need for this. Discussions must not be e-mailed to the members of the Board. Those who do not respect this communication order will be contacted. E-mail can be used to inform when there is a new post on the discussion forum. This can also be done automatically.

The most recent board meeting was another example of how communication needs to be improved. If you do not hear, due to an unknown technical error, you cannot disrupt the meeting by constantly repeating your problem. It is complicated technically, but you can try to exit the system and log in again. If a member doesn't listen, you can't disturb an ongoing Board meeting with this. The Chairman will turn off the microphone if similar situations occur again. This is not something that we made up in the working committee. There have been complaints about the communication from members of the Board and the Academy.

## **Suggestions for discussion of anthologies, ie. on policy and on the financial plan**

We have had regrettable experiences working with anthologies. To avoid this in the future, we need to look ahead and create good conditions for this important work, actually one of our most important activities. We cannot continue to work as we have done with anthologies, but we need partly a well-developed and clear policy and partly a clear financing plan for each work assignment. Our anthologies are of high academic quality. We have many books in stock and need to invest in marketing. No new anthology should be written without a structured plan for marketing. We have to sell what we produce.

The Editor's task is to get the authors to keep their contributions at a reasonably equivalent level. This is to avoid, for example, some writing in popular science and others at an advanced level, that only a few will understand. Although an anthology brings together authors of different styles and expertise, it is intended to be a cohesive work.

The Board needs to approve the financing plan before the work receives permission to start. The financing plan must fit within the Academy budget. If funds have been applied for and granted for publication or if an established publisher is responsible for the publication, the Board's role becomes a different one.

Who will draft the policy is an important question. Someone in charge with editor experience needs to keep up the work. The policy must be comprehensive and apply to all kinds of publications.

A road map should also be drafted for each anthology. Who should be the editor? Who will make contributions to the anthology? What conditions apply to the anthology? What responsibility does the editor have? These issues are important for the quality of the anthology. The editor is the writers' natural sounding board for ideas and questions. The editor is a key person when writers start producing content. The editor will order the content, one could say. The editor also has control over publication schedules.

A financing plan needs to be drawn up for each anthology. The Board must approve the financing plan because the Board is responsible for the Academy budget. Where the work with the anthologies belongs can of course be discussed. The Editorial Board may be able to take responsibility for everything except funding for publication and possibly marketing. Nothing in this is written in stone. It is a discussion that we need to have in order to have an effective and qualitatively good working plan.

### **About the Science Festival 2024 – it is now fast approaching**

We continue to plan for the Science Festival, Strömstad Academy's most important meeting for new knowledge, new inspiration, new perspectives and an annual get together for members and the public. Strömstad Academy presents science in creative and unexpected ways. We are now hoping for many participants from the Academy. Record in your calendar! It is a four day festival. We will soon receive a detailed program for the Science Festival and instructions on conference prices. This year we are targeting many external visitors from near and far, and the program will be adapted accordingly.

We are considering inviting representatives from Region Västra Götaland to find out if there is interest in a future collaboration. Strömstad Academy has a developmental potential that the region could benefit from. Interesting projects could be created for the development of the region. We also have to offer the region an opportunity to present during the festival. It could really pay off. Strömstad Academy is a fantastic regional resource.

The local planning group will provide information in Strömstads Tidning in the form of various texts, perhaps a guest column and hopefully an article about the Science Festival. Strömstad Academy's Science Festival is one of Strömstad's leading popular science events. The Science Festival has open events and is also completely free of charge. The Science Festival could even function as qualified continuing education for teachers, but also for other professionals. Teachers and other professionals can take part in current research questions, which provide new insights in a more popular science-like way. It is important that what is offered is current issues and anchored by Strömstad's school management.

Our Vice-Chancellor Per Flensburg and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Anders Gustavsson are responsible for the Science Festival program. If you have opinions on the program itself, you should contact Per and Anders. Then there is a local working group that supports with meeting venues, refreshments, pleasantries and everything else that contributes to a worthwhile festival. Lars Broman is convener, Peter Fritzell, Sveza Filipova and Rosa Jörgensson are members. If you have opinions on the surrounding arrangements at the Science Festival, please contact this local working group.

### **The activities in the local chapters in 2024 – the coordinators in each local chapter and the person who convenes the coordinators**

At the last board meeting, the activities of the local chapters were discussed. We want continuous reports to the board meetings from the convenors in the local chapters. These are currently our local chapters: Bodil Frisdal (Södra local chapter, Lund/Malmö) Jens Allwood (Göteborg local chapter), Sveza Filipova (Strömstad local chapter), Peter Fritzell will take over responsibility from 2024 (Falun local chapter) and Marylou Wadenberg/Sten Philison (Uppsala and Stockholm local chapter).

The purpose, goals and content of the local chapters need to be updated. At the last meeting, Bodil Frisdal was appointed as coordinator of all the local chapters. She has had many views on purpose, goals, content and working methods and forms of work and that is a good start.

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 the way you want and can. Correcting and prescribing behavior is not good.

It is nice to have activists for the activities in Strömstad Academy, but if you have no desire to become active, that should also be possible! In all associations there are some activists and others who do not become active (the 80-20 rule). 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 should also be welcome in Strömstad Academy. Åsa Morberg belongs to the Falun local chapter and Peter Fritzell has invited us to a first meeting with lunch. How nice this will be! A lunch with colleagues where we get to know each other again is such a good start. Who knows what Peter Fritzell is up to?

## Per Flensburg: Using email sensibly

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### Using email sensibly

*Per Flensburg, professor Informatics*

In our monthly report, Åsa and I complain about the communication pattern in the Academy. In this article I will give some good advice on how to make communication easier and more effective. As Vice-Chancellor and Chairman, both Åsa and I receive lots of emails. Of course, that is a normal pattern and for us to be expected as leader of the Academy and we should know what is going on in the Academy. But sometimes it's just too much.

Most email programs arrange the email in threads, which are tied together by the fact that they are about the same issue, i.e. have the same text in the subject box. When you casually reply to a thread, all emails in the thread are sent along. Now if someone has entered a picture, this picture is sent with all replies. It takes up space and causes recipients' mailboxes to become full. An image takes up to 4 mb and most email systems allow less than 10 mb as attachments. If it is a high-resolution image, it can take up to 20 mb of space. A number of such threads with many returned images quickly fill the mailbox.

### To whom should I send the letter?

If you have now decided to send an email, the first question you should ask yourself is: Who should receive the email? If it is a matter for the Board, of course the Board should receive it, but it places certain demands on how the matter should be formulated. See mine and Åsa's report in this News Forum. Above all, you should not pick a previous letter and by answering it present your case. Board emails should be sent to [ordforande@stromstadakademi.se](mailto:ordforande@stromstadakademi.se)

### The subject

In the subject line, write what your email is about. Many individuals use a previous email and in replying to this you are faced with something completely new, which you have come up with in the spur of the moment. This means that the thread becomes misleading and unnecessarily long, and the content of your important letter is hidden in a thread that is about something completely different. As a researcher, you should be familiar with the importance of focusing your text, but this skill often seems to be completely lost in the context of email writing.

### Who should receive the email?

This is the most important question. You have a message you want to convey to someone. Think carefully about who this someone is! Think about whether it is really necessary that everyone you intend to send the email to should have it! If this is not the case, start a new thread with only those being relevant receivers. If it is a more general discussion you want to initiate, you should do so in our new discussion forum, which will be up and running after Easter. More information about this will come later.

### What should I attach?

It is not necessary to send all previous emails in the thread when replying to an email. Instead, select the last email or the email you want to reply to and write your reply. This way, you cut most of the thread.

### What you absolutely should not do!

The worst thing you can do is to reply to all and then insert a completely new subject that is unrelated to the subject of the email.

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## Gudmund Bergqvist: About Drugs and Ukraine

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### About Drugs and Drug Prevention

*Gudmund Bergqvist*

Those who are interested can find out more about this in the monthly magazine drugnews.se. Another source is SLAN, Sweden's Alcohol and Narcotics Council ([slan.se](http://slan.se)). There are links to lectures on nitrous oxide intoxication, 'boffning', vaping, white snuff etc. - They are worth watching and enlightening. Another place where you can find downloaded lectures is förebygg.nu where the lectures from November 2023 can be found. You can choose from e.g. gambling for money, drugs in the sewage, how could fatal shootings among young men become commonplace in one of the richest countries in the world, etc. In the June letter 2023, I referred to lectures at Drug Policy for the Future, a conference on the occasion of Sweden's presidency of the EU.

On drugpolicy for the future there are lectures published on YouTube. There you can see Prof Bertha Madras lecturing about cannabis abuse and especially the risk of vaping, and in another the mistakes we make when dealing with new drugs and where medicine loses to economy regarding ketamine clubs, as well as the use of various psychedelics. You can also watch Staffan HübINETTE describe his recently published book The Cannabis Industry's Strategies and Methods: He that see shall find. Unfortunately, there is a lot of false information online but those lectures should be adequate.

### Ukraine

On the 24 February this year, it was exactly 2 years since Russia's full-scale war of aggression on its democratic neighbor with whom it has been in limited war since 2014 and initially managed to occupy some areas. At the moment it is more of a status quo, but Russia has made some minor conquests at the cost of 1000 individuals killed and wounded daily every month in recent times. Ukraine defensively works with barbed wire, dragon teeth on the front etc. but also is attacking Russian navy and gasoline depots with drones.

EU managed to find its large contribution of 50 billion euro and it is now a subject for various discussions on how the EU can quickly increase its support, especially with shells. Ukraine is currently "outgunned" with only being able to fire 2,000 shells daily against Russia's 10,000.

Russia's economy is on a war footing and at least 8% of its GDP and is probably aiming for a protracted war that leads to a lack of support for Ukraine from the West. The big problem at the moment is that the isolationists, including ex-President Trump, are delaying the big aid package to Ukraine for electoral reasons and possibly a faibless for "strongmen". Their interest seems to be more for guarding the border with Mexico. They have not understood that if Ukraine falls, it will probably go the same way with Taiwan, and further with a Chinese expansion, and other wars in which any authoritarian state attempts to take part or completely occupy a neighboring country.

Many security analysts warn that in just a few years, due to its large investment in the military, Russia would be ready to attack a NATO state, and they suggest that NATO should be rearming strongly. Compared to Russia's, the EU's economic strength is large and it should be able to "arm Russia to death" just as the United States did with Star Wars in the 1980s

Finally, I would like to remind you that our close country of Belarus is suffering greatly under the illegal dictator and that the country's inhabitants deserve to have a democratic development according to their wishes and should have our support. This is not a contradiction to the support for Ukraine, which you can also support via United 24. Democracy needs the support of all of us throughout the world, as the V-Dem report shows.

We must not fail or falter. Finally, I would like to say,

**Praeterea censeo Kaliningradum esse demilitari.**

