



## 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** inform about news in Strömstad Academy. Flensburg writes about IT-News, selling Academy books and the Science festival 2-4 June 2025.

**Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist** reviews the journalist Anne Applebaum's book *Autocracy inc The dictators who want to run the world*.

**Business economist Rune Wigblad** spoke about Maglev trains are enabling regional enlargement with socio-economic effects at the international Maglev conference in Malmö on September 18-22.

Strömstad Academy's **Honorary Professor Lars Broman** has been the first Swede to be named Fellow of International Solar Energy Society ISES. On 29 August he received a Fellow Diploma at the EuroSun conference on Cyprus.

In Folklore. Electronic Journal of Folklore vol. 93 2024 ethnologist Anders Gustavsson has published a review Nordic Everyday Popular Storytelling <https://www.folklore.ee/folklore/vol93/bo1.pdf> On September 11-12, he participated in a conference in Oslo organized by the Nordic and interdisciplinary network DERK with research on death <https://www.med.uio.no/helsam/english/research/network/derk/>

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)

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Layout: Per Flensburg

I wish new contributions to the October issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 27 October 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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### **September's monthly report by Vice Chancellor Per Flensburg and Chairman Åsa Morberg**

September is here and it is the first month of fall. Although September is the ninth month according to our Gregorian calendar, the name actually means the seventh month. It was because the emperors Julius and Augustus introduced their own months during the summer. Strömstad Academy's members are spread over large areas, and we have therefore experienced the fall in slightly different ways. The trees change color, from green to yellow and red. The trees create colorful foliage and it is a way for the trees to save energy. We can enjoy all the beauty of nature. We would like to inform you about the following in our first fall report/monthly report. We wish everyone a really nice fall.

#### **New term of office and first board meeting 30 September 2024**

Effective board work requires that we continually make sure to streamline processes and stay up-to-date on changes and new ways of working. We need to dare to think anew. It is now a new semester. A proposal is made at the meeting about decision minutes. A unanimous working committee recommends this. We also address the issue of archiving the Board's and Working Committee's documents. We need to review the archiving in Strömstad Academy so that it is legal. We also need to make visible to our members how we archive various documents and, above all, where we store them. Members must have access to, for example, the minutes.

#### **Review of delegation arrangements**

We have adopted a new statute, and it means that we need to review our delegation procedure. Delegation is handing over decision-making rights, i.e. letting someone else make decisions in the name of the Board. This is called delegating the decision. A person who receives decision-making rights is called a delegate. Delegation means transferring responsibility and authority from a board to a person within Strömstad Academy. It is a way of distributing tasks and authority to promote efficiency and of course productivity.

#### **The calendar for the Board's activities 2024-2025 up to, and including, the annual meeting**

Strömstad Academy's calendar is sent out with the invitation to the first board meeting. The calendar runs up to and covers the 2025 annual meeting in March. The calendar includes the Working Committee meetings and Board meetings.

It is an overview plan. Changes can therefore occur but should be avoided as much as possible.

These are preferably digital meetings. For the time being, it is Per Flensburg who announces the link and assists as administrator.

Members who are called to Working Committees or the Board must report any absence without delay to Chairman Åsa Morberg, 070-329 85 23, or via e-mail [ordforande@stromstadakademi.se](mailto:ordforande@stromstadakademi.se) as soon as possible. The alternates are listed and they serve in order of absent members. Alternates otherwise have the right to attend and speak. The Nominating Committee always has the right to attend and speak.

The calendar includes one board meeting per quarter. Note that the annual meeting is in March, after the new charter and the new annual plan. The Working Committee has one or two meetings between board meetings and can be called in extra for decisions on urgent matters. Notices for both extraordinary Board meetings and extraordinary Working Committee meetings can therefore occur outside the calendar.

Activities take place on different days. It is afternoon hours, according to practice. This can be discussed and changes may become relevant.

### **Policy for books and anthologies - upcoming discussion and decision for the Board**

We want to tell you that we will receive a delicate case for the Board, but we will receive a prepared document. The Editorial Board comes up with a document that the Board need to discuss and decide on. Publishing books and anthologies means it affects our budget. We cannot continue on the set path where funds are suddenly being sent to projects that the Board does not know about. We need a new policy for publications in the form of books. We have large stocks of literature that do not sell. We need to rethink and publish books via established publishers or publish e-books. We want someone to read what we write. However, we will soon receive an anthology that Arne Fagerström is holding. The anthology is already financed through Arne's care and does not burden Strömstad Economy's budget.

### **Editorial Board and websites**

The Editorial Board had a meeting on 11 September and websites and book distribution were discussed. This is reported in separate articles. Our new external website is up and running and it is now possible to once again have e-mail under the auspices of Strömstad Akademi: <first-name>.<last-name>@stromstadakademi.se All but three who already have such an address do not seem to use it because their mailboxes are full. These addresses, except the three, are now closed and those who want a [stromstadakademi.se](mailto:stromstadakademi.se) address is asked to contact Per.

### **From national plan**

#### **New education minister Johan Pehrson, also party leader for the Liberals**

Johan Pehrson (L) takes over the role of Minister of Education after Mats Persson (L). It was clear when Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson presented the new government. Pehrson also takes over responsibility for the secondary school. Pehrson is basically a lawyer, and since 2022 is also party leader for the Liberals. Now he is responsible for higher education and research. It is in the role as a party leader that he stated his ambitions for the school in 'Vi Lärare'. For example, he advocates tighter reins for the independent schools, reduced secrecy between school and police and he also claims aptitude tests for student teachers. We from Strömstad Academy will court the new Minister of Education. The previous education minister did not want to meet with us, but strangely referred to the research bill. How he could do that is strange. What we wanted to talk about had nothing to do with the research proposal. We now want to talk to the new Minister of Education about Strömstad Academy and our ambitions for Strömstad Academy. The government can be very happy with

Strömstad Academy, but we need to tell the minister how it will be done. We are adjusting our courtship letter and sending it in as soon as possible! Strömstad Academy strives to preserve and utilize the senior researchers' rich knowledge and solid experience for the benefit of the entire Swedish society. Strömstad Academy offers a platform for continued research and educational activities, characterized by independent and interdisciplinary thinking. Clearly, the new Minister of Education is interested in this.

### **New boards at state universities - increased politicization of higher education**

The government has recently decided on the appointment of chairmen and other external members of the boards of 30 state universities for the period 1 October 2024–30 April 2028. The decisions cover a total of 239 people.

It affects Strömstad Academy if, for example, we want to collaborate with a university. There are lists on the Ministry of Education's website of what the boards look like!

SULF criticizes the government for increased politicization of higher education. Universities and colleges themselves should be able to appoint their own board members. At the local level, you know best what kind of support you need, and you should be able to engage the power you think you need at the university.

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## **Per Flensburg: IT-news**

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### **IT news**

*Per Flensburg, webdesigner*

Our new website is fully operational. The member page is called [stromstadakademi.org](http://stromstadakademi.org) and the general page is called [stromstadakademi.se](http://stromstadakademi.se). They should both be fully functional but feel free to check. It is possible that some link is loose. All that's left is to make English versions, but with Marylou's help I'm sure they'll turn out great!

The member page is cleared of all advertising and marketing. It must be as efficient as possible for the members, and I think we have come a long way to that effect. I have also put in a discussion forum and everyone on the Board has been given login information. I have also made an instruction manual/tutorial and recorded some instructional videos that you can access via the homepage. Now there's no excuse not to use our discussion board!

Our new web host is called one.com, it is located in Denmark and I have good experience with it. The address to the website begins with <https://> where the "s" means that the content is encrypted. It increases security. I have also connected a simple keyword optimization so that you find our pages if you google them. There are certainly details that can be fine-tuned, but that will have to be a later question.

Another advantage is that we can quite easily establish a web shop on the website, where you can pay by credit card. It may be necessary because Strömstad book store no longer wants to distribute our books. More on this later.

From before, we have an account on Google which gives us pretty much unlimited access to Google meet, which is a meeting program. It works well and has the functions we need. In addition, you get 2 TB of storage space, which we will need. Namely, at Sten Philipson's initiative, we have tackled archiving. We already have protocols and other governing documents stored on a free Google account, books and articles are on the website, but our films are scattered in many different places, private clouds, YouTube, the website, etc. They

should be gathered in one place so that we have control over them. Many of them are very extensive (several GB) and for this we need the two terabytes we get to give-through Google. We now have the conditions to have a significantly more efficient website than we had before, and it is now necessary to market it!

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## Per Flensburg: Science Festival 2025

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### Science Festival 2025

*Per Flensburg, Vice-Chancellor*

There are now about 8 months left until the Science Festival 2025. It will take place on June 2-4, 2025. We have removed the excursion because the interest this year was so low that it was cancelled. There will then be one less night to spend in the hotel. We also brought the Festival forward a week in order for you to be able to attend your grandchildren's school graduations. And maybe we can even get some arrangement with the high school in Strömstad. We also expect this year's organizing committee to stand up next year as well. You did a phenomenal job!

At this year's Festival, there were strong requests for more time for discussions. We therefore want to extend the discussion time for each talk by 10 minutes. So there will be a 20-minute lecture, 20-minute discussion and 5-minute breather after each presentation. The basic schedule looks like this:

09:00-09:45 Lecture  
09:45-10:30 Lecture  
10:30-10:45 Coffee  
10:45-11:30 Lecture  
11:30-12:15 Lecture  
12:15-13:30 Lunch  
13:30-14:15 Lecture  
14:15-15:30 Lecture  
15:30-16:00 Coffee  
16:00-16:45 Lecture  
16:45-17:30 Lecture  
(17:30-18:15) Lecture

On Monday we start at 14:00/2 pm with a members' meeting in Fars Sal. This will be a two hour activity and then we can have one lecture before the installation of new members. On Wednesday, we can partially have parallel sessions based on the themes that have started.

Without parallelism, we can fit in 19 lectures, but if we have two parallel themes on Wednesday afternoon, we can fit in 23 lectures. If we have three themes, there will be room for 27 lectures. I have put the lecture at 17:30/5:30 pm -18:15/6:15 pm in parentheses, it can be a bit too much and maybe we can use that time better to socialize.

Tuesday is supposed to be something of a day open for the public, but there haven't been that many visitors in recent years. However, the trend is rising, this year there were 100% more than last year and all 4 visitors said it was nice and interesting. The important thing, however, is to give Strömstad Academy's members the opportunity to present themselves and their research.

So, Dear Members of Strömstad Academy, book the days in your calendar, start the 'brain office' and sign up as a presenter!



## Lars Broman: EuroSun 2024

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### EuroSun 2024

*Lars Broman*

International Solar Energy Society ISES presents a Fellow Award every second year. In 2023, I received, as the first Swede, the Award. I got my Fellow Award during a ceremony on 29 August, as part of the international solar energy conference EuroSun in Limassol, Cyprus. ISES paid for my travel as well as registration and hotel, which of course was very kind (and frankly, necessary).

EuroSun 2024 had attracted some 250 participants from European as well as non-European countries, We were treated some 50 oral presentations and as many posters. Among us were a handful Swedes, including a PhD student from Solar Energy Research Center SERC at Dalarna University, where I worked until I retired in 2007. Also ISES' new President Viktoria Martin, energy professor at Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, participated. Incidentally, she will talk during this year's Science Saturday in Falun 7 December, hosted by Strömstad Academy together with People University.

The EuroSun conference showed that solar energy research is still very current. Information on the conference is found here: <https://www.eurosun2024.org/> . While one in Sweden gets the impression that solar energy presently is only solar electricity – photovoltaics – it was here obvious that as much solar energy research deals with heat as with electricity. I found this interesting, since during my time at SERC our research was dominated by solar heating.



Here on the photo I receive my Fellow Award from ISES' President Viktoria Martin. I had been given 5 minutes to talk afterwards, so then I told how the idea of a European Solar Engineering School ESES, that is part of Dalarna University since 1999, began when I visited another Mediterranean island in 1996, namely Capri, in 1996. My own solar energy activities are described in our anthology POWER, use and misuse (MAKT, bruk och missbruk), pp 93-129. The Capri story, translated from pp 121-2, follows here:

The year was 1996. In April the family Henning-Broman travelled around Italy by bus as really old fashioned tourists. We spent two days on the island of Capri and I knew that once there had been a solar observatory, owned by the Swedish Royal Science Academy, in Anacapri. What if some remnants of it still existed? While the rest of the family took the funicular to the top of Monte Solare, I managed with the per mille of Italian I knew, to convince an old man to show me the way to the observatory. Behind a high and closed lattice gate I climbed with death contempt (oh yes, blood wound did arise) over the gate and then managed to find my way through a green jungle. And so, in front of me, there was the whitewashed observatory building with broken windows and cracked doors, but along the whole façade hang the remains of Gunnar Pleiel's solar collectors. I could without difficulties get into the house, up onto the observatory's roof (with remains of telescope parts left lying) and down into the pitch black cellar where I fumbled my way to something that must have been the water tank of the solar heating system. I took a photo of it (with flash!) and when I eventually developed the photo I realized that I had guessed correctly,

I paved my way through the jungle and found several houses which I entered through broken doors, and in one of them I found a mural painting with partying astronomers as motive. I climbed over a stone wall on the backside, and came out to the living reality and back to my family, but the next day I brought them to the observatory jungle and showed them what I had found. It was quite obvious that no one had been here in several years. Later, in the bus on the way to Rome, I begun to fantasize about what the old observatory possibly could be used as, if repaired and restored. Here it would be possible to give courses in solar energy to engineers-to-be!

The continued story is found in MAKT - bruk och missbruk!



## Gudmund Bergqvist: Review

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### Review: *Autocracy inc: The dictators who want to run the world*

*Gudmund Bergqvist*

Anne Applebaum is a journalist who over the years has published a number of books on Soviet Eastern Europe and the Soviet regime in *The crushing of Eastern Europe*, *Red famine*, *Stalin's war on Ukraine* *Twilight of Democracy*. She has now published a new book *Autocracy inc: The dictators who want to run the world*.

The book describes the cooperation not only between the most notorious Russia, China, Iran and North Korea but also a number of other states such as Cuba, Venezuela, Zimbabwe. The dictatorships support each other in various ways with cheap loans, aid, trade agreements.

She describes "Putin's invention", the kleptocratic dictatorship in contrast to the old "party-ruled". In the new model where a number of people have power and wealth, backed by security services and other power structures as well as hired gangster organizations, propaganda organs and cooperate with other dictatorships in various ways economically, militarily, technologically, and diplomatically.

The autocrat's goal is always to remain in power no matter how badly his own population is treated. The top of the autocratic elites, such as Russians, can invest their wealth in real estate, companies, etc., partly in Western countries and partly in so-called tax havens. This is done by using different agents who in different ways give advice on how to circumvent laws, but they do not only buy properties but also parts or entire companies and groups in the West. Sometimes this is done via so-called shell companies and you do not know who the real owner is. This gives the dictatorships the opportunity to act and influence our societies without it being clear who is acting. In the 1990s, the West had an idea to democratize Russia and even China through mutual trade "Wandel durch Handel" and other equipment replacement. It turns out that this did not work.

In connection with the technology revolution, there were optimistic voices that the internet and social media would contribute to the spread of democracy and liberal values. Reality shows that authoritarian states can limit and control citizens' access to information and freedom of expression in various ways. Unfortunately, modern technologies are used a lot as weapons for dictatorships to spread disinformation and increase tensions in the Western world, and there is always a cyberwar going on.

This way of influencing our societies by spreading division within countries through various actions and supporting different groups to make this happen. An example of such division was Brexit where the general public was promised a number of changes in society that would bring improvements and take place if Brexit went through, However, the promised improvements did not happen and the UK has developed worse than expected in terms of economics, immigration etc. The book is a word of warning about the impending dangers of authoritarian attacks on liberal democracy and rule-based society, and points out that many corporations and institutions in the West are contributing to these attacks for financial reasons.

In the final chapter, *democracy united*, she discusses possible ways for democracies to promote democratic ideas but also in different ways work for resistance to kleptocracy and corruption, which are weak points. Laws need to be changed regarding registering property



holdings where the real owner's name must appear as well as similar laws regarding different companies, i.e. changes regarding shell companies and other things.

The lawyers accountants and others who make a living on advice regarding shell companies etc should have their work limited by making certain parts of their work illegal.

The authoritarian states are waging a cyberwar against us with information of various kinds that will create disunity. This activity must be exposed and met with counterattacks. A big task is to respond to false information.

In the chapter decoupling is also discussed, i.e. closing of trade and other contacts etc. which is doubtful, but derisking, i.e. not being dependent on goods and other things from dictatorships but be compensated from other sources, i.e. friendly and democratic countries. This dependence on China became clearly evident during the COVID pandemic, especially in its initial phase. They had made themselves dependent on imports from China for economic reasons and had also built up sufficient stocks, i.e. the "just in time ideology" did not work as it should. She emphasizes the value of rebuilding production opportunities, i.e. an increased resilience. Finally, it is emphasized that the world's different democracies must cooperate more in order to support each other and to combat authoritarianism in all its forms.

Read it and take part in defending democracy.

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## Per Flensburg: On books

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### On Books

#### *Per Flensburg*

Strömstad book store is moving to new, smaller premises and can no longer act as a distributor for our books. In general, our book sales are unregulated, we don't even have routines for pricing books. I suggest the following procedure:

When the book has been delivered to the Academy, the publishing price and selling price must be determined. It is done/works according to the following formulas:

**Publishing price:** Printing cost per book + profit

**Selling price:** Publisher price + shipping + commission

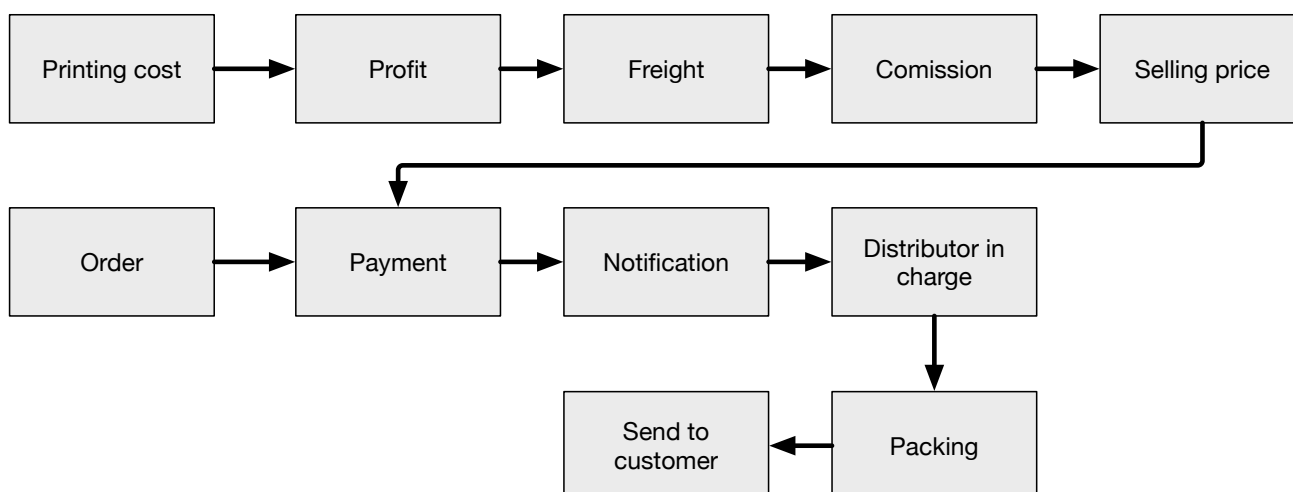
The publishing price is the cost price, and we have so far set it as a standard at SEK 150. It should be calculated more precisely and is unique for each book. Profit is the profit that Strömstad Academy wants to make on each book. It should cover estimated losses but can also be set to SEK 0. The cheapest shipping is SEK 80 with Schenker. Commission is an amount that covers distribution costs.

As for books bought via Bokus, adLibris or other booksellers, they will determine the selling price. Therefore, the profit is included in the publication price.

The problem is the physical distribution. The books are in Strömstad, but the Academy is spread all over the world. You can figure that maybe the municipality could distribute the books, you can maybe pay someone to do it or we have to take care of it ourselves. I have sketched on this latter option here.

Someone (=Sveza) who lives in Strömstad is needed to undertake the purely physical distribution. But this someone must always be available and that is not realistic. There must be

several people who can distribute books and someone must always be the on-call distributor. Someone must also be responsible for distribution. It might look something like this:



Moment	Executor
Notification of payment is sent to the distributor on duty	Cashier, card handler
Packing and franking	On-call distributor
Send	On-call distributor

The distributor in charge has an e-mail address: [distribution@stromstadakademi.se](mailto:distribution@stromstadakademi.se) that points to the distributor on duty. Card handlers and cashiers send messages to this address. Due to travel and other events, you may have to change the distributor on duty and this then makes you responsible for distribution. Packaging and the like are included in the commission.

At regular intervals, for example once a quarter, the distributor on duty makes a settlement with the cashier and receives his commission based on the number of books sold. This should cover the expenses the distributor had plus to give a little encouragement.

As I said, other options are to ask an external party to take care of this, but this will inevitably entail some costs. If we do not take care of the distribution ourselves, the books may remain in the town hall and be distributed as scholarships or marketing items. One possible consequence is that we will continue to publish online only. This is a matter for the Board to decide on.