STRÖMSTAD ACADEMY
Nordic institute for advanced studies

News Forum Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

Content

Editor's corner: Anders Gustavsson 1
Monthly report from Chairman and Vice-Chancellor 1

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 Strömstad Academy news.

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** at per.-flensburg@stromstadakademi.se

I wish new contributions to the February issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 24 February 2025: 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 Reprint Series and the Free Series to: per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se

Monthly report from Chairman and Vice-Chancellor

Monthly report by Vice-Chancellor Per Flensburg and Åsa Morberg, Chairman of the Board

Christmas is over, the Christmas gifts have been handed out, Kalle Anka and Karl-Bertil have been watched on TV, the Countess has once again had her solitary supper, the grandchildren's eyes are fully glazed, it seems that there will be peace between Israel and Hamas and Trump is said to have got a sensible chief of staff. The days are longer and Per will soon be going to Spain. In short, everyday life is back. We wish all members a good continuance of the new year, 2025. The first month is almost over. Time goes by quickly. Possibly faster the older you get? What does the summary of 2024 look like and what will 2025 look like?

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson
Layout: Per Flensburg

What can Strömstad Academy contribute to society? What ideas can we come up with and what can we put into action?

What role can Strömstad Academy play? We could interest and stimulate people to apply for higher education. There are 1.5 million highly educated people in Sweden. Just over a quarter, 28%, have at least post-secondary education. This corresponds to approximately 1,487,000 people. Happily, the proportion of highly educated people has increased by just over half a percentage point per year. If you look at native and foreign-born people, the proportion of highly educated people is approximately the same. If you look at men and women, women have the highest level of education.

The university cities have a higher level of education than the rest of the country. If you look at those with doctoral degrees, we have more men than women. Stockholm, of course, tops the list with the country's highest level of education. Other municipalities with a high level of education are Lund, Lomma, Uppsala, Umeå and Linköping. Four of them are university towns.

Strömstad Academy has a large and important task to fulfill in order to interest and encourage more people to apply for higher education. We do this in different ways. Strömstad Academy has a clear mission to fulfill. We publish a number of interesting scientific publications and we participate in scientific lectures, workshops, seminars in various contexts! Web-based lectures are also a new and important part.

Strömstad Academy has a great and important opportunity. We at Strömstad Academy also enable seniors to continue their assignments because many higher education institutions do not take advantage of the competence of their seniors. Are there several other ways for Strömstad Academy to work to increase the proportion of highly educated people? What could we contribute to? Bring forward your ideas and suggestions and we can help raise the level of education in our country, our region or our city. We all need good ideas. We try to launch the good ideas without any more extensive bureaucracy! It is only our imagination that sets the limits!

Invite a researcher is something that we could market. There are very few people with a science degree that are also working as a teacher in the schools. Statistics Sweden looked into this some time ago and at that time it was just over 1,000 individuals doing so. If the school is to be able to stimulate higher education, it needs teachers with doctoral degrees, and since there is no such expertise in the school, Strömstad Academy has a clear task! The problem is to reach out to the teachers.

Strömstad Academy's profile is interdisciplinary. This means a holistic perspective to a greater extent than the current specialization. This applies to both research, teaching and society as a whole. In terms of contributions to society, we have a major task in pointing out the problems with the current drainpipe organization. We have therefore started a debate magazine (https://tvartankt.se/Tidskrift) where we can show and more carefully analyze phenomena we consider important for society. The format in the form of a magazine means that the articles can be longer than the debate articles we write for mass media. Each issue has a theme which is announced on the magazine website.

From the Strömstad Academy board, January 2025

We have an updated calendar and the most important difference is a postponement of the board meeting before the annual meeting. The annual meeting remains the same date.

We have a preparatory board meeting before the annual meeting. Dates will be sent out as soon as possible!

The Nominating Committee consists of Arne Fagerström, Maria Björkroth and Gudmund Bergqvist. The Nominating Committee is ready to start working. We have a vacancy after Carl Olivestam's untimely passing. Our treasurer has also announced his resignation from his position.

We have received an archive policy and it will be sent to the Board well in ahead of the board meeting. The archive policy for Strömstad Academy will be determined at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting will be digital and we need to ensure a legally secure voting. There are different ways to do that and we will have a discussion about this in the Working Committee/Executive Committee.

We have managed to establish a new Statute, we have a new ethical policy and an Ethics Committee, and now we will also get an archive policy.

When it comes to motions for the annual meeting, it is high time to think. A motion is a proposal from one or more members that means that the board should take a certain action. Please write the motions in separate documents. Not in an email. Remember a heading, a body text and proposals for action clauses. Try to write clearly and concisely. Explain why the change is needed.

Our board should lead our activities in the best possible way. The most important task is to focus forward! The Board's task is to make decisions about the association's administration, finances and strategies.

Academic activities in 2025

In 2024, a new organization of academic activities began in Strömstad Academy. We introduced themes, meaning that people who are interested in roughly the same things form a group and do something in this group. The idea was born during the Science Festival, where for a couple of years we have seen a natural sectioning of presentations. In 2024, the following groups were formed (leaders/convenors are underlined):

1. Psychiatric illness & alcohol-drug addiction: (Marylou Wadenberg, Lennart Wetterberg, Gudmund Bergqvist, Anders Gustavsson and Ulf Berg). The group has existed for a couple of years and was very active in the beginning, but activity has decreased in the last year.
2. The Technology Assessment Group (Rune Wigblad, Inga-Britt Skogh, Bengt Johannisson, Per Flensburg). The group was formed in response to a presentation Rune gave at the Science Days and we have so far approached the Ministry of Industry and Trade with proposals to establish a technology assessment council.
3. Faith and knowledge (Anders Gustavsson, Per Flensburg, Sten Philipson) with the aim of writing an anthology on this topic.
4. The population issue (Lasse Broman, Dag Lindgren) a theme that addresses the burning question of whether there are too many of us on Earth for it to be able to support us

In 2025, we intend to establish these groups by giving them their own websites to convey their message. We also expect a number of publications from them. Furthermore, we will try to establish new theme groups:

1. Climate group, which studies the climate threat.
2. Energy supply, is closely related to the climate threat, possibly these groups can be merged.

3. Interdisciplinary science because Strömstad Academy is interdisciplinary and the concept must be clarified and defined so that everyone feels comfortable with it
4. Medicine of one or more kinds. We have many medical professionals in the Academy so it should be possible.
5. The school in slightly different constellations
6. Music where there are many of us that are interested in music and we also have some music practitioners, yes, a composer and a choir conductor, both honorary professors. The idea is mainly to listen to music and exchange experiences and opinions.

Otherwise, we plan the following activities

- The publication of reports in our publication series will continue. We will try to get more contributions to AAS now that we have new and more clarified assessment criteria.
- A number of anthologies and other books will be published electronically.
- A webshop where we can sell our printed books will be established
- Courting the minister or a ministerial council will be made
- A debate magazine will be published in collaboration with Tvärtänkt
- Marketing (including recruitment) of the Academy must get started
- At least 20 individuals among us must be active
- Discussion forum must be up and running with at least 15 active participants

Collaboration with Folkuniversitetet

At the beginning of January, we established a collaboration with Folkuniversitetet (FU) in Västra Götaland where members from Strömstad Academy offer to give lectures at various locations within FU's area. The fee is SEK 2,500 plus travel expenses. It also seems possible to lecture digitally, but the details are not entirely clear. Per has a list of interested lecturers and if anyone else is interested, you can contact him (per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se) Enter some tentative titles, give a short description of yourself and indicate whether any time is particularly suitable or unsuitable.

We also have a collaboration around the Science Festival where FU is a co-organizer and sponsors us with a certain amount of money.

Science Festival

About the Science Festival: It takes place Mon 2 June – Wed 4 June in Strömstad as usual. On Monday we start at 14:00, hopefully in Fars sal, we have a members' meeting in the afternoon where we discuss the development of the Academy. Afterwards, mingle in the staff coffee room Guldtuppen, with wine and sandwiches. On Tuesday we have lectures for the public and on Wednesday we have meetings focused on the theme groups. We hope that we can hold them at Laholmen. One of the evenings we have a gala dinner and the other we hope to go and see an operetta, based on Strauss' The Leather Patch: The Crussell Party. We also have a collaboration with Strömstad Opera and have promised to give four lectures during the spring. But we are waiting for the organizing group to start working on this.

Memorial Fund

In connection with Carl's passing, we have established a memorial fund, where you can donate money to honor deceased members. The fund will then be used to support the Academy's activities in some way, we have not yet decided exactly how. The formal decision has

not been made, it will be brought up at the next board meeting, but in connection with Carl's funeral, you can still make your donation. Contact Per to receive a nice gift certificate.